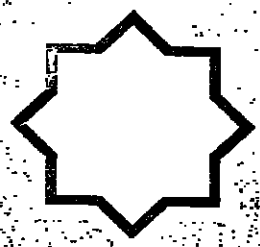


The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Presents its best wishes to
His Majesty King Hussein
and the Jordanian people
on the occasion of
Independence Day

ARAMEX
A Star World

Tel. 5515111, Fax. 5516820

AMMAN, 22-28 MAY 1997, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 350

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Expert talks on
European role

Page 3



Le nouveau code de
la presse déclenche
une vague de
protestations

page 10

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

the star's
weekend
magazine +
TV Guide

mag

Ask for your free 8-page weekend
magazine with this issue

Charges of selling land to Jews turns deadly

By Barton Gellman
EIN YABROUD, West
Bank—Hani Abu Sarah, 48,
a small-time building con-
tractor here, set off for a
business meeting Saturday
and did not return. His body
turned up in an olive grove,
finished off with a gunshot
in the ear.

On Monday, Palestinian
news reports linked the kill-
ing to suspicions that Abu
Sarah once helped sell Arab
land to Jews, an act that has
long smacked of heresy and
treason in the struggle
between dueling national
claims.

It was the second time this
month a man has died in the
shadow of a charge of selling
land to Jews.

Israel's Prime Minister
Benjamin Netanyahu, speak-
ing to reporters in parliament
Monday, described the kill-
ings as "ghastly, monstrous."
He said Abu Sarah's shoot-
ing, along with another on
May 9, was "apparently at
the behest of the Palestinian
Authority."

Neither he nor aides pro-
vided support for that charge,
and Israeli police and
defense spokesmen said they
have no evidence to back it.

A closer look at Abu
Sarah's life and death left it
doubtful he ever sold land to
Jews, or lost his life because
someone thought he had.

Neighbors, Palestinian
police, the local mosque
preacher and two sons
mourning in the shade of a
fig tree offered an abundance
of alternate explanations in
Abu Sarah's tangled per-
sonal history, including busi-
ness disputes, allegations of
infidelity to his two wives
and a role in a previously
murderous family feud.

But there is little doubt
about the return of a lethal
argument over land sales in
the context of what US
ambassador Martin Indyk
described over the weekend
as a "broken down" effort to
reach a negotiated peace
between Israel and the
Palestinians.

A staple of the intifada,
the 1987-93 uprising against
Israeli military occupation,
and a recurring theme since
the century began, the issue
had largely been dormant
since the first Israeli-
Palestinian accord of 1993.

Continued on page 2

Journalists united in their rejection of new press law

JPA ready to take government to court, but opts to
engage in quiet dialogue for now

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

After more than four years of
tension between successive
governments and the Arabic
weekly press, the government
of Dr Abdel Salam Majali has
finally carried out what pre-
vious governments had threat-
ened to do but never did: amend
the Press and Publication Law.
Until last week the government
could only file legal suits
against newspapers. But under
the amended law, the govern-
ment has rearmored itself again
with painful and sometimes
lethal weapons, from back-
breaking fines to actual abroga-
tion of licenses.

Since the Press and Publi-
cation Law was passed by parlia-
ment in 1993, the government
filed 62 legal cases against edi-
tors and their newspapers. Only
four were against the dailies
and the rest against weekly
newspapers. It won some and
lost many.

But last Saturday, the gov-
ernment got the Royal stamp of
approval for amendments to the
1993 Press and Publication
Law. The new temporary law
gives the government greater
control over newspapers and
the other 542 publications in
the country. (See page 2).

The Jordan Press Associa-
tion (JPA) and all professional
unions and opposition parties
rejected the government's sur-
prising move and accused it of
exploiting the absence of Parlia-
ment to dramatically impose
restrictions on the press.

The new law sparked wide-
spread reaction especially from
the professional sectors in Jordan.
Opponents accused the govern-
ment of muzzling the press
and of retreating from the
democratic path.

The government's move fol-
lowed harsh criticisms by His
Majesty King Hussein of sensa-
tional and irresponsible press.
They were in turn being
accused of undermining
national stability, by publishing
sensational stories that lack
credibility and professionalism.

Many experts admit that
some weeklies have abused
their freedom and violated the
spirit of the law. Tabloids have
frequently run stories using
fiery banner headlines on their
front pages to attract readers'
attention and more often than
not published stories that
lacked accuracy and credibility.



Closing ranks: JPA members ponder their next move

However, many believe that
the new law is a form of "col-
lective punishment" against all
the press in Jordan which will
transform the country's press
into a mouthpiece for the
government.

"This is a conservative, tradi-
tionalist society that is not
accustomed to read such [sen-
sational] material in its local
newspapers," said Mr. Maj-
moud Al Sharif, a former min-
ister of information. "Besides,
some of these weeklies have
actually smeared the image of
Jordan abroad."

Mr. Sharif believes that the
causes behind the new law are
understandable, but "the way it
was implemented is highly
controversial," adding that "in
many aspects it is curbing the
freedom of the press, of the
mainstream press, of the loyal
patriotic press." He maintained
that "you are punishing all the
press because of the deviation
of the few."

"The new amendments are
too harsh for dealing with these
deviations," Mr. Sharif pointed
out.

Article 24/B of the law now
compels weekly newspapers to
raise their capital from the
present JD 15000 to a massive
JD 300,000. They must comply
with the law within three
months or face closure. Such a
provision is considered by
many observers as a form of
collective punishment that
reduces the "good" press to the

level of the bad.

"It means you are driving all
the weeklies out of the market.
Nobody can pay this amount, if
that is the intention I think it is
wrong," Mr. Sharif said. "Take
for example *The Star* itself,
which is a very useful maga-
zine that carries news about
Jordan abroad. *The Star* is
doing the job of the embas-
sies." The former minister said
that it shouldn't be punished
like the rest of the sensational
newspapers.

The press body criticized the
law for setting high fines on
journalists for "ambiguous
offenses" which is leaving it to
the executive branch to
interpret.

"This will serve as a perma-
nent threat to journalists in
carrying out their duties. They
are now terrorized by this new
law," said Mr. Sharif.

Legal experts have also
accused the new law of being
unconstitutional. "This law vio-
lates article 94/1 of the Consti-
tution," Jordan's Lawyers
Association President Hussein
Mjalli said.

The Constitution states that a
temporary law may only be
passed in specific cases "cover-
ing matters which require
necessary measures which admit
of no delay or which necessitate
expedient action." Mr. Mjalli
believes that their was no
urgency behind issuing the
new law and that the gov-

ernment could have waited
until parliament convenes.

He added that even if the
new law requires "necessary
measures" the Constitution
stated in article 82/1 that the
King may whenever necessary
summon Parliament to meet in
an extraordinary session for an
unspecified period for the
purpose of deciding matters to
be specified in the Royal Decree
when the summons are issued.

"Accordingly this law is
invalid and violates the Consti-
tution," Mjalli added.

Lawyer Saleem Al Zo'bi
who participated in drawing the
Press and Publication Law in
1993, agreed with Mjalli's
legal view. He expressed his
concern about the phenomenon
of temporary laws that suc-
cessive governments have imple-
mented in the past. He believes
that "such actions are depleting
the authority of the legislative
branch."

Mr. Sharif reiterated his call
for forming a Higher Press
Council which is composed of
influential people that will con-
trol "deviations and anti-social
behavior" within the press
body and assume that role so
that it will not be filled by the
"executive branch of
government."

Meanwhile, the JPA has con-
tained a minor crisis among its
council members who have now
agreed to suspend their resig-
nations. JPA President Saif Al

Continued on page 2

Turning Aqaba into a free zone could prove an expensive task, experts argue

By Ihram Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

THE MAIN focus of the gov-
ernment's economic agenda
during last week's meet-
ings of the ministerial devel-
opment committee was given to
plans being disclosed to trans-
form Aqaba into a free trade
zone and link the Dead Sea
with the Red Sea. Official fig-
ures estimate the total costs
of the two projects at
\$7million.

During a press conference
earlier last week, Jawad Al
Anani, deputy prime minister
for development and minister
of state for prime ministry
affairs, told journalists that "I
believe that transforming
Aqaba into a free zone will be
of a great benefit to Jordan,"
and added that this was an old
project that has been widely
discussed by former govern-
ments. However Dr Al Anani,
stressed that the project has
now been finally approved
and will take its way towards
implementation.

According to Anani the
Aqaba project which costs \$3
million, provides the infra-
structure needed for a free
trade zone including railways,
tourist and industrial areas,
water, electricity, environ-
ment projects and a replan-
ning of the city. This project
will take nine years to be ex-

ecuted, with the aim of making
Aqaba a promising invest-
ment zone for the whole
region.

However, the viewpoint of
Dr Fahd Al Fanek, a promi-
nent economist is completely
different. "The project is too
big for Jordan," he told *The
Star*.

He added that estimates for
such projects (the Aqaba free
zone and the two seas' canal
linking the Red Sea and the
Dead Sea) are exaggerated
and are not based on accurate
feasibility studies, Al Fanek
said.

Ahmed Al Nimri, an eco-
nomic analyst, agrees with Al
Fanek. He added that our eco-
nomic performance is below
expectations now and that
with the present philosophy
towards liberalizing prices we
should not be focusing our
attention on impractical pro-
jects that need huge
financing.

"Aqaba is already a semi-
free zone where we can attract
investments and encourage
the exchange and re-export of
goods," Al Nimri told *The
Star*. "This can be achieved
without speaking about a free
zone that costs billions of
dollars."

Dr Al Fanek believes tak-
ing on such projects will easi-
ly double Jordan's foreign

debts, currently fixed at
around \$6 billion. He wonders
how Jordan will be able to
service an additional increase
in debts.

But, Dr Al Anani said that
by 1998, Jordan would not
need to follow an economic
restructuring program. This
means that by that time Jordan
would have been able to reach
a state where it will be
fully capable of managing its
economy on sound basis and
become a more competitive
society, Dr Al Anani said.

This means it will be easier to
arrange for the finance of
these big projects through
loans and outside aids.

He also added that Jordan
had managed to reduce its
budget deficit to the gross
domestic output (GDP) and
increased its exports and
moved on successfully
towards an effective privatiza-
tion strategy to give a leading
role to the private sector. In
addition the country has a sat-
isfactory reserve of foreign
currencies.

Continued on page 2

Military prosecutor charges Dakamseh with premeditated murder

AMMAN (Star)—The gen-
eral military prosecutor has
formally indicted private
Ahmad Mousa Dakamseh, 26,
and charged him with pre-
meditated murder under the
Penal Code. The indictment
sheet consisted of three other
charges including attempted
murder and disobeying mili-
tary orders.

Dakamseh, a resident of
Irbid village near Irbid, has
been in military custody ever
since he was arrested follow-
ing a bloody attack on Israeli
school girls on 13 March in
the Baqoura area which left
seven dead and, as many
injured.

Dakamseh was serving as a
driver of a military vehicle in
the Jordan Valley area when
the attack took place. He is
now accused of planning and
carrying out the attack on his
own.

According to the indict-
ment sheet, Dakamseh had
planned to kill Israelis as far
back as 1993, when he was
transferred to the Jordan Val-
ley area to serve there. But he
was never able to execute a
plan to cross the Jordan River
and attack Israeli patrols.

When he was relocated to
Baqoura, he decided to attack
visiting Israeli tourists who
frequented that area, the
indictment sheet said.

It added that he planned to
gun down Israelis visiting the
Baqoura area early in March
and almost carried out his
scheme on 7 March.

On the night of 12 March,
he was on duty and refused to
be substituted on the morning
of 13 March but took leave
for one hour and returned
with a gun and seven loaded
magazines.

At about 10 am, a bus car-
rying Israeli children arrived
and remained there for 15
minutes. According to the

military prosecutor, Dakam-
seh did not carry out his
attack because of the young
age of the children.

Later on another bus
arrived carrying about 50
Israeli schoolgirls, aged
between 12 and 14, who dis-
embarked not very far from
where the military vehicle
was standing. He allegedly
made sexual remarks about
one of the girls and asked a
sergeant who was with him in
the car to leave him alone for

a while. He then loaded his
gun and moved to about 30
meters from the girls and
began shooting indiscrimi-
nately at their backs killing
and injuring several of them.

The prosecutor said
Dakamseh changed magazines
several times and continued
shooting and advancing until
he was five meters away from
his victims. Members of his
unit tried to restrain him but

Continued on page 2

Queen Margrethe a Danish delight

By Dean E. Murphy
COPENHAGEN, Denmark—
Danish Queen Margrethe II
set sail last week for a cruise
through her crannied Nordic
kingdom. But Danes don't ex-
pect to hear much about the
weeklong royal outing. The
queen, you see, is rarely big
news here.

As head of one of the
world's oldest reigning mon-
archies—dating back 52 sove-
reigns to Viking ruler Gorm
the Old in the 10th
century—

Queen Marg-
rethe carries
credible regal
credentials.
She lives in a
Rococo
palace in the heart of the capi-
tal, Copenhagen, spends sum-
mer holidays at a chateau in
France and serves as the tita-
lar head of the Danish state.

But as Queen Margrethe
celebrates her 25th jubilee
this year, Danes say she is
most revered for what she is
not.

"She is not Queen Eliza-
beth," said sales clerk Nina
Korsbom, speaking of the
monarch's higher profile rela-
tion across the North Sea.
"We like it that way. She is
one of us. She's not someone
who acts superior or de-
tached."

So ordinary can
be Queen Mar-
grethe that she
sometimes does her
own shopping,
traipsing home to
Amalienborg Palace
with purchases un-
der her arm. She is
an accomplished
artist who has been
known to work for her stu-
dent, designing sets at the
Royal Theater, illustrating
works by J.R.R. Tolkien and

translating a book by French
philosopher Simone de Beau-
voir.

The no-nonsense monarch
offers no apologies for the
cigarette that dangles perpetu-
ally from her lip, and her an-
nual New Year's address typi-
cally includes a blunt
admonishment of her 5.2 mil-
lion subjects—most recently,
for the country's growing in-
tolerance of immigrants.

"She is one of those rare
people who is able to speak to
the conscience of a nation,"
said Hans Jorgen Nielsen, a
political scientist at Copen-
hagen University. "Even the
left-wing (and-monarchists)
listen to her. She has consis-
tently enjoyed a favorable rat-
ing of 80 percent to 90 per-
cent."

The festivities marking her
silver anniversary—a mile-
stone similar to one that
lurched the British royal

house into a public tizzy in
1977—have been adoring but
restrained. There has been a
state banquet in Parliament,
a ceremonial carriage tour of
the capital and a special per-
formance of the Royal Ballet.

Last week's royal cruise is
one of several official outings
planned in Denmark and its
possessions, including Green-
land and the Faroe Islands.

But tourist shops in Copen-
hagen report that jubilee and
other royal souvenirs are a
hard sell, especially when
compared with trinkets de-
picting this city's legendary
mermaid or renowned story-
teller, Hans Christian Ander-
sen.

Danish royal watchers say
the low-key relationship be-
tween ruler and ruled has
helped build the monarchy's
popularity. There is an un-
spoken axiom in Denmark
that the six members of the
royal family do not abuse

their privileges, and, in ex-
change, the public keeps a re-
spectful distance.

In the most notable ex-
ample, royal watchers say, it is
well-known that Crown
Prince Frederik, 28, invites
girlfriends to spend the night
at the royal residence. But he
does not flaunt such trysts,
nor are they typically noted
outside gossip columns.

"We all think he has a right
to live his own life and meet
the girls he wants to meet.
We treat the royal family as a
normal family—we couldn't
have it any other way in Den-
mark," said Annelise Wei-
mann of Billed Bladet, a
weekly magazine.

That is not to say Danes are
indifferent about their monar-
chy.

Continued on page 3

**World
Report**

هكذا من الأصل

Restrictions on press freedom do not stop with new law

Other laws such as the Penal Code exist to curb freedom of expression

AMMAN (Star)—Amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law were ratified by a Royal Decree, last Saturday.

Article 24/A orders daily newspapers to increase capital from JD 50,000 to JD 600,000. Section B of same article orders other publications and weeklies to increase their capital from JD 15,000 to JD 300,000. Both must do so within three months.

Article 13/B requires chief editors to have at least 10 years experience.

Amendments ended the daily's hope of reducing government control. They cancelled the article that divested the government of its equity in *Ad-Dustour* and *Al-Rai*.

The new law allows the government to maintain, through the Social Security Corp., and the Jordan Investment Corp., a controlling interest of 62 percent in *Al-Rai* and 32 percent equity in *Ad-Dustour*.

Law now cancels imprisonment for violations. Article 50/H gives courts the right to cease any newspaper that is convicted of violating Articles 40 and 42, and gives [informa-

tion] minister the right to allow the republication after paying the fines.

Fines and offences under Articles 40 and 42 (publishing of pending court proceedings) which originally did not exceed JD 1,000, and fines for offences under Article 44 did not exceed JD 6,000.

Amendments concerning these articles now have a minimum fine of JD 15,000 and a maximum of JD 25,000.

Article 40 of the Press and Publications Law forbids publication of news, views, opinions, analysis, information, reports, caricatures, photos or any sort that disparages any of the following:

■ Which offends the King and the Royal Family;

■ Information about the Jordanian Armed Forces and security forces, unless it is permitted either by the concerned authority or by a government official;

■ Materials which show contempt for any religion recognized by the Constitution;

■ Articles which damage national unity, or encourage racism, or foment hatred, discord and disharmony among

members of society;

■ Government documents of a confidential nature;

■ Minutes of closed sessions of Parliament;

■ Information which is intended to shake confidence in the national currency;

■ Information which contains a personal insult to the Heads of State of Arab, Islamic or friendly countries or that harms Jordanian relations with other countries;

■ Which offends the dignity or personal freedoms of individuals or damage their reputation;

■ Which includes false news or rumors that offend public interests or state departments.

Other laws that restrict the freedom of the press:

■ The Penal Code contains additional provisions which restrict freedom of expression and carry harsh penalties.

■ External Security of the State.

Article 118 of the Code protects the external security of the

state by punishing with imprisonment for at least five years, "anyone who, by writing or speech not authorized by the government, exposes the Kingdom to the danger of hostile actions, disturbs its relations with foreign states, or exposes Jordanians to physical or material retaliation."

"Anyone who provokes incitement inside the Kingdom, or any Jordanian who provokes incitement inside or outside the Kingdom by writing or speech may be sentenced to a prison term not exceeding two years and a fine of no more than JD 30" (Article 122). The definition of incitement includes humiliation of a foreign country, its dignity, its flag, or its national anthem.

Article 122 also prohibits the insult or humiliation of a head of state, its ministers, or its political representatives in the Kingdom and specifies that truth is not a defence to charges under this provision.

■ Dissemination of false news. The deliberate dissemination of false or exaggerated information outside the country which attacks state dignity may be punished with a prison sen-

tence of not less than six months and a fine of not more than JD 50. If the false or exaggerated news concerns the King, his successor, or the guardian of the throne, he or she may be sentenced to no less than one year's imprisonment (Article 132).

■ Defamation. Innuendo and Affronts against Public Officials. The Penal Code defines defamation as "the imputation of a specific fault to a person, in a sceptical or interrogative manner, in such a way as to detract from his honour and dignity or expose him to hatred and contempt, regardless of whether the said fault constitutes a punishable offence" (Article 188).

Innuendo is defined as an "attack on the dignity, honour or standing of another person, in a sceptical or interrogative manner, without specifying a particular fault" (Article 189). An affront is "any contemptuous insinuation or invective, other than defamation and innuendo, which is directed against the victim by word of mouth in his presence, by way of abuse, in writing or graphic form that is not made public, in

a telegraphic or telephone communication or by callous treatment" (Article 190).

Public officials are entitled to enhanced protection under the Code. Defamation is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months to two years if it is directed against the National Assembly (Parliament) or its members in the course of their work, or if it is directed against an official body, a court of law, a public institution, the army or any public servant in the discharge of his functions or as a result of action taken by virtue thereof" (Article 191). Innuendo is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of one to six months or a fine of JD 10-50 if it is directed against any of the bodies or persons mentioned in Article 191" (Article 193). Affront is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of two weeks to six months and/or a fine of JD 5-30 if it is directed against a public servant in the discharge of his functions or as a result of action taken in his official capacity."

If the public servant is a person "vested with public authority," the penalty is enhanced and the perpetrator may be imprisoned for up to one year (Article 196).

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

A letter from the publisher

JORDANIAN JOURNALISTS have rejected the new press and publication law passed unilaterally by the government earlier this week. The council of the Press Association has submitted its resignation, but later suspended it, in protest and the heads of other professional unions have also threatened to resign en masse by Saturday if the government does not withdraw its controversial law.

Opposition parties have also come out to denounce the amendments introduced by the government to the 1993 law, which until last week, was seen as the most liberal press law in the Arab world and an indication of Jordan's vibrant democratic process introduced in the early 1990s.

Apart from the numerous flaws in the new law, which are seen as a major setback to freedom of expression in Jordan, the manner with which the government has passed the law, without consulting the Press Association or the deputies, reflects a drastic retreat by the government from the democratic process.

Such a process enshrines the basic fundamentals of freedom of expression as a constitutional right for every Jordanian, pluralism and the separation of powers.

Such a change in government mentality is sending the wrong signal to Jordanians and to the world.

The press has come under fire in recent weeks for its treatment of many issues; from national unity to peace with Israel, and from the economic woes of the country to official corruption. In addition to this some newspapers, especially among the Arabic weeklies, have been accused, justly on many occasions, for their irresponsible, sensational and non-credible coverage of public issues. It is no secret that the main casualty of the new law will be the weekly press. Most may have their licences revoked.

While the government may have a case against the way some tabloids have abused their freedom under the 1993 law, the government's choice of remedy is unjustified and will do more harm than good to press freedom and to the image of Jordan as a beacon of democracy in this region.

The new law has condemned all Jordanian journalists—the majority of whom are bound by the ethics and principles of their profession. It has dealt a blow to all members of the profession regardless of their credibility and intentions. It has confiscated their right to report freely and responsibly on government—a most sacred tenet in any thriving and healthy democracy.

This paper is among Jordan's oldest weeklies. Being a weekly newspaper it now finds itself threatened by the new law, which requires us to re-register itself as JD 300,000 establishment. We were never considered, nor do we consider ourselves, as a sensational and irresponsible newspaper that has abused its freedom. And yet the new law has passed a heavy sentence on us.

There is much more at stake here than closing down a few rogue weeklies. Silencing the weeklies, *The Star* included, will not serve democracy, nor will it advance and protect freedom of the press in Jordan.

We have always believed in responsible dialogue and in the sanctity of our constitution and laws. Both are now being undermined by arbitrary legislation and political myopia.

Turning Aqaba into a free zone could prove an expensive task, experts argue

Continued from page 1

the agreement repayment was delayed to June 2000.

Lately, the United States had disclosed that it plans to offer loans to Jordan worth \$100 million, however no further details were available on the utilization of these loans.

Since the last Amman Economic Summit (MENA), Jordanians have been anticipating concrete steps to carry out some of the big infrastructural projects that were discussed. But until last week none of

the projects was implemented.

The head of the Aqaba municipality, Dr Riyadh Al Hilu described the decision to transform Aqaba into a free zone as positive. However, he added that this puts it in real competition with neighboring countries in the fields of transport, tourism and investments. "We should be strong and qualified enough to face such a competition," he said.

He added that to develop Aqaba along the lines of the free zones of Port Said in

Egypt and Jebel Ali in Dubai requires careful and serious planning, bearing in mind the various economic, geographic and demographic aspects.

"This means that a sound infrastructure should be there and investors have to be provided with all facilities and incentives to choose Aqaba as a center for their business and trade," Al Hilu said.

The transformation of Aqaba into a free zone is an ambitious project that will certainly encourage industrial exports, create employment opportunities, reduce pressure on the balance of payment, help transfer advanced technology, and revive the national economy. The project should boost the tourism sector, attract foreign investments and facilitate regional cooperation in various fields of development.

However, financing this huge project remains the problem.

Military prosecutor charges Dakamseh with premeditated murder

Continued from page 1

he allegedly threatened them with his gun and proceeded to shoot at the girls until his gun jammed and his colleagues were able to control him. He was taken to a control tower but while members of the unit were busy evacuating the victims he managed to escape and commandeered a military vehicle and headed for the attack site and tried to run down an Israeli man who was injured in his leg. He was finally restrained.

Now that the indictment sheet has been presented, a trial date will be set, expected to take place as soon as next week. If convicted Dakamseh faces the death penalty. His lawyer Ahmad Najdawi has asked Arab lawyers to join him in the defense of his client. The defense will insist that this was not premeditated

and will try to prove that Dakamseh had not planned the attack but was provoked by his victims and acted at the spur of the moment.

Charges of selling land

Continued from page 1

From the earliest days of Zionism, when Jews and Arabs began their contest for the lands of Palestine, both sides infused private ownership of land with religious resonance and implications of national sovereignty.

Zionist purchases were known as "redeeming the land," and "there was a consensus that land, once bought, should not pass from Jewish to Arab hands," said Anita Shapira, professor of Zionism at Tel Aviv University.

Better organized and financed, ultimately triumphant in founding their state, the Zionists devised formal and informal mechanisms to prevent Arabs from acquiring Jewish land that persist today.

Palestinians, the weaker party, turned to violence. A 1994 study of Palestinian slayings of collaborators with Israel by the human rights group B'tselem found that land dealers were thought to be "the worst type," "heretics and religious rebels."

The return of the issue in Palestinian debate began with the groundbreaking in March for a new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem on land bought years ago from Arabs by Jews. Another factor was a series of covert land deals by extremist Jewish groups, culminating in the expansion this month of the Merkaz Harav yeshiva—a messianic bulwark of the settler

movement whose patron advocates expulsion of Arabs from the West Bank—on East Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

The Palestinian cabinet, meeting May 2, directed "judicial and security circles" to halt such land sales. Three days later, Justice Minister Fathi Abu Meideen said the self-rule authority would put "anyone who sells even a centimeter on swiftness and ... seek the death penalty against them."

He spoke approvingly of occasions in the intifada when "people who sold land to Israelis were shot as traitors."

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiti, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-run Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiti's body was found, Abu Meideen continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

Abu Meideen said to "expect the unexpected" because "nobody from this moment will accept any traitor who sells his land to Israelis."

At that day's Friday prayers on Haram Sharif the Palestinian-appointed mufti of Jerusalem, Ekrima Sabri, announced to worshippers that "there is a Jew with a Muslim birth certificate who sells land. He is dead. He must not be prayed for or buried in a Muslim cemetery."

More than a week later, after being rebuffed by every Muslim graveyard they tried, Bashiti's survivors buried him in a secret plot—after staging a false interment in Neve Mousa, between Jerusalem and Jericho, in case anyone was inclined to desecrate his grave.

"No one knows where he is buried," Mohammed Bashiti, the dead man's son, said Monday. "I want my father to rest in peace."

Here in Ein Yabroud, a Jerusalem suburb 12 miles north of Jerusalem, Abu Sarah, the more recent casualty, was buried with Koranic verse in a village graveyard packed with neighbors and friends. That was a strong indication of disbelief in allegations raised in the newspaper al-Ayyam that the dead man had been suspected of "selling lands to Israelis."

"There isn't any evidence," said Sheikh Munir Nabulsi, who heads the Ein Yabroud mosque and presided over the funeral. "It is very possible that this man was falsely accused." On the other hand, Nabulsi said, "if they find he really was guilty of selling land, whoever killed him will not be found because he will (turn out to) be from the Authority."

Journalists united

Continued from page 1

Sharif said the general assembly of the JPA will be called for an extraordinary meeting on 6 June to discuss the new law which was passed without prior consultation with his association. He also said the JPA has managed to convince presidents of other professional unions to suspend their decision to resign on Saturday if the government does not withdraw the new law.

JPA has now opted to establish a quiet dialogue with the government rather than resort to extreme measures. It hopes to convince the government to review some of the amended articles which journalists find undemocratic and threatening to press freedom. JPA will also file a legal suit against the new law at the Higher Court of Justice.

JPA's decision to open dialogue came one day after a peaceful sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry ended in violence with riot police using force to disperse some 60 Jordanian journalists. At least four were injured and 10 were arrested. They were later released.

The government announced Tuesday that it had no intention to withdraw the law. Minister of State for Information Affairs Dr Samir Mutawa said only an elected parliament can approve or reject the law. He said no special session of parliament will be called before the November elections.

JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

MS GROUP

The Management and Staff of **MUNIR SUKHTIAN GROUP**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Ammon SHIPPING & TRANSPORT

The Management and Staff of **Ammon Shipping & Transport**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Jordan Tobacco & Cigaret Co.

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Royal Automobile Club of Jordan

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Jordan Petroleum Refinery

The Management and Staff of **Jordan Petroleum Refinery**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO. LTD

INVITATION for Pre-qualification of Vendors for Corporate Planning and Computerization Project Tender No. 23/F97

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. (JPMC) invites local and/or international companies specialized in the computer industry to apply for Pre-qualification to implement the Corporate Planning and Computerization Project at JPMC Head Quarters and all other Sites. Application for Pre-qualification will be considered only for specialized computer companies, which are suitably qualified for this type of work and with high knowledge in Management Information System (M.I.S.).

The Pre-qualification document submitted shall include details of experience and past performances on similar projects, the capability of the vendor and with respect to personnel and financial position. Application for Pre-qualification will be issued against non-refundable payment of JD300 and will be available at JPMC Head Quarters / Supply Department. The closing date for purchasing the Pre-qualification document is 12:00 HRS local time Thursday the 5th of June 1997.

A presentation will be conducted at JPMC Head Quarters in Amman at 10:00 HRS Local Time Monday the 9th of June 1997, to answer all queries regarding the Pre-qualification document.

The closing date for submission of applications is 12:00 HRS Local time Thursday 26th of June 1997.

Samah Madani
Managing Director

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

fizz **spark**

35500 29510

ONE YEAR WARRANTY WHEN BROKEN CONDITIONS

PHASE II

Authorized Distributor in Jordan

Wael Al Tai Al Al Karma Center Tel. (962-6) 602924 Fax (962-6) 702447

هكذا من الشرح

JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional
report on Jordanian
news and views edited
by Marwan Al Asmar



King accepts credentials of foreign ambassadors to Jordan

His Majesty King Hussein accepted the credentials of the new British ambassador to Jordan, Mr Christopher Battiscombe, on Tuesday.

Mr Battiscombe began his diplomatic career in 1963. He served as counsellor in Cairo from 1981 to '84; ambassador to Algeria from 1990 to '94; and assistant undersecretary, director of public services at British Foreign Office until 1997.

Mr Battiscombe said that he was delighted to be in Jordan during such an important time in the history of the region. The ambassadors of Spain, Norway and Ecuador also presented their credentials to the King.

Jordanians in Iranian jails

The families of the 15 Jordanians held in an Iranian jail are making another appeal to the government and human rights organizations to intervene on their behalf. The families have said that already a number of Arab and foreign prisoners have been set free and that Jordanian prisoners should get the same treatment. Their families point out that some of the prisoners have been held for the last 15 years. Iranian sources told *Ad Dustour* that most of the Jordanian prisoners are military men who participated in the Al Humra and Al Shosh battles in the last Iran-Iraq war. However, it seems that negotiations are still with the Iranian government is taking place to release them.

Abu Awad stands for NCP

The National Constitutional Party is now busy gearing up for the next general election in November. It has already added to its list the famous comic actor, Nabil Al Mashini, alias Abu Awad. He will be standing for a Christian seat in the Third District.

On another level, Lower House deputy, Mohammad Dawoudia is applying for membership to join the newly formed party. Dawoudia, who was a minister of youth in the last Kabarti government, is a strange cattle of fish. In the early 90s he was a member of the now merged Arab Democratic Party, but it appears now that he is once again making a full circle in his life and joining a center right party.

What is more interesting is that the Minister of State for Information Affairs, Samir Mutaweh is also joining the new party. The NCP is already fielding 50 candidates for the next election. This is more than the 41 candidates that is being fielded by the Islamic Action Front.

Food poisoning

About 60 school girls were taken to Al Mafrag government hospital suffering from food poisoning. It is thought that they became sick after eating canned cheese that has been donated by a European country, according to *Al Arab Al Youm*. Meanwhile, 70 students in a public school in Al Wihdat were taken ill because of food poisoning. Medical reports suggest the poisoning happened after the pupils ate sandwiches from the school cafeteria. According to *Al Bilad*, Al Besbir Hospital turned away the sick children. As a result, some went to the Islamic Hospital. However, the weekly points out that some of the children stayed at home because their parents could not afford private hospital treatment.

Code of honor

A new 'code of honor' has been drawn up by the General Secretariat of the Arab Parties Conference. General Secretary Sulaiman Arar said the new code, which was about producing a set of 'blueprints', will be presented to the next conference of the Arab political parties. In what is seen as a reminder of a pan-Arab philosophy, Mr Arar said the new code will help establish a move from the present regionalism of the Arab world to a 'wholesome' view. And in that respect, Mr Arar said that occupation of any one part of the Arab world is to be rejected. He said the charter includes an article for the removal of sanctions on Iraq, Sudan and Libya. Arab political parties would be expected to work for the removal of these sanctions. The charter stated that the Palestinian question is central to the Arab cause and that liberation of the south of Lebanon and the Golan Heights was a must.

Palestine remembered

A student rally in memory of the loss of Palestine in May 1948 took place earlier this week in the University of Jordan. Speakers called for the stopping of any form of normalization with Israel. The peaceful protest was allowed to go ahead by the university administration. Similarly, the Professional Associations held a rally to commemorate that occasion. Speakers included Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Al Rantisi, who delivered a message by telephone from Gaza, the Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood, Abdel Majed Thuneibat, the former Mayor of Nablus, Bassam Al Shaka', Lower House deputy Bassam Al Omush, and the President of the Lawyers Association Hussein Mjalli. The rally was organized by the Palestine Committee and Committee to Resist Normalization of the Professional Associations.

Al Arab Al Youm

Jordan this week saw the birth of a new daily, *Al Arab Al Youm* is proving to be an interesting addition to the other three dailies that exist in Jordan. Will it be a strong competitor many are arguing? For this we shall have to wait and see in the coming few months. Certainly so far *Al Arab Al Youm* has not proved the dynamic, magical, news earth-shattering newspaper that we were led to believe in the months prior to publication. Very little analysis, scant features and almost mundane news have dominated the first few days of publication. However, one must not be too harsh to an up and coming daily. In all fairness, *Al Arab Al Youm* has potential. The new simplistic style it is introducing to the press scene could be a welcome change from the large headlines that has become to dominate our daily diet.

A Middle East expert speaking on a greater EU role in peace process says

'Europe is going to be very careful not to offend the United States...'

EDITOR'S NOTE: More experts are talking about a greater European role in the Middle East. They say that Europe wants to become closer to the Mediterranean countries and forge relations based on stronger political, security economic and cultural cooperation. *The Star's* Marwan Asmar talked to Dr Tim Niblock, the director of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Center of Durham University in Britain, about this development. Dr Niblock was recently in Jordan. Excerpts follow:

How do you feel about the present peace process? Is it facing deadlock, or is this a temporary hitch that will be overcome?

I think at the moment it is in a very serious situation and I don't think that with the present Israeli government it is likely to proceed very significantly. Nonetheless, in view of everything that happened, in view of the involvement of outside powers in the various agreements that have been made, I don't think that these peace agreements could be undone. The Palestinian National Authority is there to stay and that structure is there to stay, but for the moment I find it very difficult to imagine it's moving on to a final status solution in the near future.

Do you think that Europe can play a greater role in "unblocking" it in that regard?

I believe that the European Union should play a big part than before in the peace process and there is a very hopeful sign that, now, we do have a European Union negotiator on the Arab-Israeli question. At the moment, I think, the European Union is going to be very careful not to offend the United States, and not to do something which runs counter to American interests. For as long as that is the case, the value of the European Union's role may be limited. But I would think that in the rather longer term perhaps, may be, the European Union's role may become a little more independent.

Europe is trying to get into the area through other ways is through political, security, economic means as well as by building association agreements with the countries of the region. Do you think that Europe now has the political will to do that after so many years of dithering—nothing came out of the Venice Declaration, for instance?

On the economic side the European Union has shown fairly clearly that it wants much closer involvement in the



Niblock

region than before. It's in the European Union economic interests to do so, and it's also in the Union's rather longer term security interests to ensure that there is a region of peace and stability in the Mediterranean region. There is something more substantial than before, but I think that it is unlikely to be felt on the Arab-Israeli questions in the near future.

May be Europe does not want to offend the USA, but all the indications point out that Europe is a growing homogeneous power and so some argue it would like to follow a "muscle-flexing" strategy were it wants to play a greater role in the international arena. Do you think this is what's happening?

I personally believe that it is time for that. And I think that there is a logic to developments which would lead in that direction—the process of European, political and economic integration. The European Union is going to be playing a more significant role on the international stage that will be more independent of the United States. But that may still take time to develop especially on the Arab-Israeli issue in so far as that is something about which the United States is very sensitive in trying to protect its own role from being undermined by other powers. So I think it may take a few years before the European Union's strength in that field become apparent. And of course, it is true that the European Union economic involvement and its general social and cultural

involvement in the Middle East is much greater than that of the United States.

You stated before that the new relationship between Europe and the Mediterranean and Arab countries is a two-way street in that the influence has to come from both directions. And in that respect the Arab countries have to pull their socks up, cooperate more with each other to have greater influence on the Europeans. Can you specify what you mean?

At the moment in the relationship between the EU and Arab countries, the European Union is dealing with them at one level as part of the whole Middle East including Israel, and on the other hand it is dealing with them individually, through the individual association agreements. This structure of the relationship is something which emphasizes European strength and Arab weakness. Arab division. If the relationship is going to be more beneficial for the Arab countries, there needs to be a greater degree of coordination and unified action on the Arab side. The European Union, if it is to go in a positive direction as far as the Arab world is concerned, does need to have its policy pushed and I think this can be done by Arab countries collectively, or perhaps by groupings of Arab countries, acting together, or through Arab organizations.

In view of the present state of the Arab world, do you think this is feasible?

At the moment one is aware of division and that even some of the organizations which seemed to bring countries together like the Arab Maghreb Union or the Arab League are weaker than they have been at times in the past. But I do also sense, within the Arab world, a lot of evidence that there is a widespread realization of the weaknesses which have followed from this disunity and a widespread desire to try and overcome that kind of vision; and I noticed that there are significant attempts being made to try to revive the importance of the Arab League for example, and I see this as a positive move. So I think, one is at the stage of division, but there does seem to be a spreading consciousness of the need for a more need for a unified a coordinated action.

To what degree has European perceptions of the Arab and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict changed from say 10 to 15 years ago? What about the worn out stereotyping, do they still exist?

If one looks at a slightly longer period, say 25 years back, then one has seen a substantial change in European perceptions of the Arab world

and the Palestinian conflict. That goes through different phases. Going through till 1990/91, there was a steady increase in understanding in European countries of the nature of the problem in Palestine. That understanding reached its heights at the time of the Intifada. It made a tremendous impact on European opinion and it brought home to Europeans, very directly and very crucially, what the Palestine issue was all about because they saw it day by day or evening by evening on their television screens, and it meant something very much to them. And over those years one had a lot of books being written which reached public opinion and created a better understanding.

In the years since 1990, one has had a more complex picture of European public opinion. The Gulf War did a certain amount of damage as far as European perceptions of the Middle East and of Palestine; and just at the moment European public opinion is becoming aware of some of the human rights abuses which are taking place under the Palestine National Authority. [through] newspapers...and this is doing some damage to

perceptions.

Will Britain under Tony Blair and Labour be different from Britain under the conservatives with regard to the Middle East?

I think they will be a difference in policy, one of the main points here does not relate as much to Tony Blair as Prime Minister but to Robin Cook as foreign secretary who is a man that does have an understanding of the problems of the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict, who has visited Arab countries and made some effort to try to understand the viewpoints in the area. I think there may also be a difference because the new British government may see an advantage with regard to the European Union and its role in the European Union, an advantage to Britain taking a prominent role in trying to bring forward European Union policy over the Middle East and the Mediterranean. So, I personally believe that British policy in the region under the new government maybe a more outgoing one and may be a bit less tied in to the framework of the United States. ■



(From left), Ahmed Said Nofal, (Yarmouk), Tim Niblock (Durham), Javad Al Ahmad (MESC), Amin Mashaqba and Mohammad Fayeza Isaid (both from Applied Science).

A panel discussion on "European Policies Towards the Middle East in the 21st Century" was organized by the Amman-based Middle East Studies Center and the Jordanian Society for Political Science last week. Dr Niblock (See interview above) from Durham University in the UK, and who had been on a short visit to Jordan, was accompanied by lectures from Yarmouk and the Applied Science universities. MESC Director, Mr Javad Al Ahmad said the seminar comes at a critical stage of building greater relations between Europe and the Arab world. He added that there is a need for the two sides to reformulate policies towards each other in order to build a better future.

Queen Margrethe a Danish delight

Continued from page 1

her unrepentant public smoking, which has even included lighting up at a center for asthmatics.

The Danes reacted with indignation, with one tabloid screaming: "Mind Your Own Business, Sweden!"

To defuse the international incident, an apologetic Swedish newspaper rented an electronic billboard in Copenhagen's main square. "Our readers beg the Queen's pardon," it flashed. ■

WANTED
Freelance
writers wanted
Excellent
command of the
English
language is a
must. Computer
literacy would
be an
advantage. If
interested fax
your CV to
648298

JORDAN TODAY
TOURISM CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT
MAY 1997

escape to nature

The lowest point on earth

comprehensive telephone guide
for Jordan's restaurants, hotels, car
rental agents, embassies, airlines and

**WHERE TO GO ???
WHAT TO DO? CHECK
OUT OUR MAY ISSUE**

For information call 652380



ARAB BANK

Starts operations at the new location in

Hai Nazzal



as from 24, May, 1997

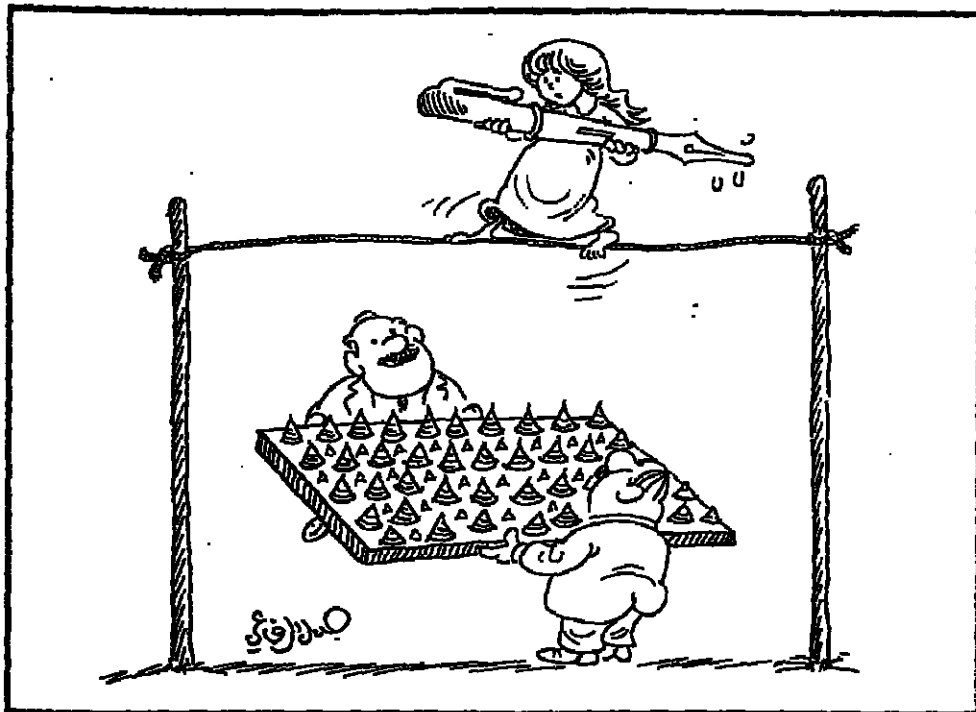
Arab Bank

Hai Nazzal - Al-Dustour Street

P.O.Box 16067 - Code 11152

Tel: 4380121 - 4380122, Fax 4380123

Visit our website on the Internet at <http://www.arabbank.com>



Our Say...

Deconstructing press freedom

THIS PROMISES to be an unusual summer for Jordanian politics. It is an election year and election years always carry within them the seeds of political evolution—or, God forbid, devolution. With the new press law, passed by the government early this week, the press has been stripped of most of its gains under the democratic era which began in 1989.

It would be an understatement to say that we are now living in one of the lowest points of our youthful democracy. Since the advent of the present government, opposition parties have been warning against a scheme to squeeze them out of the political arena before the November elections. With the press having taken the first blow, it now looks like the political canvass will be weaved all over again before the end of the summer.

It is very difficult to explain to ourselves and to the world around us how we still insist that we are a democracy when an arbitrary law with draconian measures confiscates the right of journalists to freely follow news that might implicate a minister, a whole government or one of its departments. Isn't this what a free press in a democratic society is supposed to be doing? And when journalists try to protest these measures, they are beaten up in front of TV cameras like hooligans.

The government insists that the law will lift the ceiling of freedom to higher limits and assures citizens that the new law actually serves the cause of democracy. Such assurances do not blow away the clouds of confusion and uncertainty that are now hanging over the country. It does nothing to explain the crudeness of the amendments in question, and brushes aside claims that the whole exercise is unconstitutional.

Until last week's notorious amendments, the press law was one of the most important legislations passed by Parliament. It was inspired by the National Charter, which represents the spirit of our democratic rejuvenation. Now we are left wondering about the motives of the government. What does it want to achieve and why has it abandoned earlier promises to consult with people's deputies and debate issues of national importance?

Laws are not eternal. They should be amended and improved upon. But there are traditions that govern such transitions that guarantee stability and continuity. We have now sacrificed these traditions. Today's democracy sounds and feels more like yesterday's martial law era.

It is not the press that we should worry about here, but the spirit of our democracy. Such a spirit should be the bulwark of our political evolution into a state of law and order, of institutions and of political traditions that prevent transgressions, excesses and abuse of power and authority by all concerned.

The press is not above the law. On the contrary. It should make sure that all adhere to it. The government could have waged its battle to reform the press law and end abuse of freedom by a minority of publishers from within the democratic arena. Instead it has committed an unforgivable blunder and set in motion a process that deconstructs the democratic achievements of the past few years. ■

US military seeks new combat plans for 21 Century

The Pentagon's battle doctrines—the rules soldiers learn for fighting wars—still rest fundamentally on notions of massing military might against the kind of sophisticated opposing army that went away with the breakup of the Soviet Union, although each of the military branches is experimenting with new organizational forms and high-tech methods of warfare.

By Bradley Graham

WASHINGTON—In its latest review of how to size and shape US armed forces in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse, the Pentagon has done some tinkering but left basically intact the military's budget, structure and battle doctrine.

While deciding on another round of cuts in forces, facilities and high-tech hardware purchases, Defense Department officials have spoken essentially of reallocating funds rather than altering defense strategy or revamping major combat units.

The new plan, disclosed last week, has disappointed a number of defense experts who contend that 21st century military challenges will differ from past ones and so require changes now in US organization, weaponry and fighting techniques. Future adversaries, instead of massing tanks and soldiers against American forces—as the Soviet Union threatened during the Cold War, and as Iraq did to little avail during the 1991 Gulf War—likely will fight less conventionally, the experts say.

Plans to keep the defense budget virtually unchanged at about \$250 billion a year also have disturbed both dovish liberals and penny-pinching conservatives in Congress. Their hopes of reducing military expenditures were dashed by the latest agreement between President Clinton and GOP congressional leaders, which makes little change in the total money earmarked for the military.

The Pentagon's response to the critics is that evolutionary rather than revolutionary change must prevail.

"Forgive us for being conservative," said a senior civilian defense official, "but we haven't changed much because much wasn't needed."

As the Clinton administration continues to give top priority to preserving strength and maintaining readiness, Pentagon officials offer several reasons for avoiding sharper turns in course:

■ First, the threat of regional wars breaking out at once in the Arabian Gulf and the Korean peninsula—plus added demands of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and other noncombat missions—require the United States to sustain a large military undistracted by radical alterations in force structure. Military's plan for future draws heavily

from Cold War past

■ Second, the US military has proven itself the best in the world, so why mess with success?

■ Third, congressional politics pose a real obstacle to certain kinds of substantial reorganization, entailing additional base closings, privatization of defense activities and scrubbing of some jobs-rich weapons programs. While the changes coming out of the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review are modest, they already are drawing protests from some in Congress protective of home-district payrolls.

■ And fourth, President Clinton—who avoided the Vietnam-era draft—is too handicapped in his relations with the military to lead a national effort to restructure it.

With such a cautious approach overall, Pentagon officials have been slow to prepare for less conventional scenarios predicted by many experts. These could involve terrorist attack, electronic sabotage and use of biological or chemical agents, aimed not at confronting the United States head-on but striking at vulnerable points.

Winning under such circumstances will require the US military to rely more on stealth, mobility and the dispersion of its forces as well as more timely intelligence and more accurate, longer-range weapons.

"For the contingencies the United States is likely to face, a smaller, agile and more technologically advanced military would serve us best," said Richard Perle, a former Reagan administration Pentagon official now leading a study to define an alternative defense plan. "But instead, there's been a tendency to overestimate the risk of some conflicts and exaggerate the amount of military force needed, resulting in inappropriately large heavy forces that lead to greater vulnerability, not less."

Without a peer in the world or the threat of global war, the American military still does its conventional war-gaming with planning models developed during the Cold War. It retains many of the weapons systems and structures initially designed to deter and combat a long-gone Soviet menace.

The Pentagon's battle doctrines—the rules soldiers learn for fighting wars—still rest fundamentally on notions of massing military might against the kind of sophisticated opposing army that went away with the breakup of the Soviet

Union, although each of the military branches is experimenting with new organizational forms and high-tech methods of warfare.

While the number of US troops based abroad has diminished significantly, about 100,000 will remain in Europe and another 100,000 in Asia under the new plan. And 12 Navy aircraft carriers and 12 Marine Corps amphibious groups will continue adhering to a pattern of regular deployments around the world.

After months of meetings that examined all Pentagon activities and departmental wish lists, the review has ended up reaffirming the case for keeping a large military built around aircraft carriers, combat jets, tanks and other traditional big-ticket weapons. In a report due to be released this month, the Pentagon will reassert its current requirement to grid for fighting two regional wars in close succession, defense officials said.

But the argument this time for maintaining a robust force rests on more than simply the prospect of war in the Gulf or on the Korean peninsula. It says that in order to limit the prospect of conflict erupting in what is still a dangerous and uncertain world, the US military must stay engaged in many peacetime operations—exercises with foreign armies, routine overseas deployments—and be ready to respond to many emergencies short of war.

Up to 60,000 active-duty service members, together with about 70,000 reservists and 80,000 civilian Defense Department employees, will be cut to ensure that planned purchases of new combat aircraft, ships, helicopters and other equipment remain affordable. This will include trims of roughly 10 percent in the Joint Staff and regional command headquarters, officials said. The Pentagon also will seek congressional permission to close more military bases.

At the same time, the number of planned buys—particularly of Air Force F-22 and Navy F/A-18E/F jets and Navy surface ships—will be reduced. Instead of aiming to raise annual procurement from \$42 billion to \$60 billion by 2002, as previously planned, the revised goal will be around \$55 billion, officials said. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Che Guvera

Rebel with a cause

Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life, by Jon Lee Anderson. Bantam Press, 814 pages. Reviewed by Simon Strong

THE PHOTOGRAPH of Che Guevara that gave him cult status was taken at a funeral, after a French ship laden with arms exploded in Cuba, killing about 100 people. The dark, unflinching gaze, the tousled hair, the beard and the handsome face made Guevara a student icon whose appeal extended way beyond the revolutionary left.

Yet if Guevara had had his way, there would have been a nuclear war in the 1960s. In US journalist Lee Anderson's sweeping biography, one acquaintance describes him as having not a brain in his head, but a machine gun.

It was his early death, and the manner of it, that made him a legend. Aged 39, the upper-middle class Argentine-born doctor who had been second-in-command to Fidel Castro during the Cuban revolution, was shot dead as he lay, sick, in a Bolivian hut after an attempt to create "another Vietnam" in the Andes.

Guevara was executed by a Cuban agent of the CIA whose hatred for him evaporated at his "courage and grace". According to Felix Rodriguez, Guevara's last words were: "I never should have been captured alive...tell Fidel that he will soon see a triumphant revolution in America...and tell my wife to remarry and to try to be happy."

In his life as well as his writings Guevara not only displayed a chilling faith in the use of violence to erase injustice and impose Communism. He also demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for personal self-sacrifice.

Anderson charts how Guevara's ironic detachment from death began as a medical student in Buenos Aires where his first business venture was a chemical to kill cockroaches: the scheme failed.

Although already hostile to the US at a time when the US government supported several right-wing military dictatorships in Latin America, the red-dening of Guevara's political convictions only took place while travelling as a pauper

around the continent.

It was Guatemala in particular, where a reformist government was unseated by a CIA-backed coup, that transformed him. Guevara described how he would bathe his weapon in blood "and, mad with fury... slit the throat of any enemy who falls into my hands." He talked about the duty of the "revolutionary doctor" to introduce "social medicine." And he discovered the writings of Mao Tse-tung, whom he found more relevant than the Soviet pantheon to Latin America.

It was with Guevara that the first contact occurred, informally, between the Soviet Union and the Cuban revolutionaries, in Mexico in 1955. It was Guevara, according to Anderson, who forged the missile deal with the Soviets in 1962. Meanwhile, it was also Guevara who organized the trials and executions of several hundred people accused of torture and murder under the corrupt, cruel regime of Cuba's ousted dictator, Fulgencio Batista. "Either you kill first, or else you get killed," said Guevara.

When the Soviet Union backed down over the missile



Guevara

crisis, Guevara claimed that if the missiles had been under Cuban control, they would have fired them.

While tracing Guevara's disastrous direct involvements in revolution with scant regard for local Soviet communist parties, Anderson details the ways in which the chronically asthmatic Guevara continued to abjure money and power for its own sake, shed all comforts, inspired tremendous discipline and loyalty, and sought obsessively to sink his individuality into rebel groups he believed would pave the way for global

Communism.

For Lee Anderson, Guevara's dream was built on the premise that human beings could live for moral rather than material incentives. Yet the man whom Jean Paul Sartre praised as "not only an intellectual but also the most complete human being of our age" could only achieve this by distancing himself from individual reality. He treated death lightly. Hence, it came early, and made him immortal. ■

Financial Times Syndication



"Enjoyed the visit... now back to my domestic realm"

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Tabbek

Mountains and friends

A WHILE ago, an influential writer wrote a book about the Kurdish people, titled *No Friends but the Mountains*. But as it turns out, the Kurds have more friends than the writer assumes.

However, the problem is that the Kurdish leadership seems to value its outside friends more than they do of one another. One does not want to talk about party politics, for in this case they are shaped by individuals rather than programs.

It is intentional to use the term "arming" when describing alliances and counter-alliances by Mr. Barzani. But it cannot be right to be amused, like most indifferent observers, are when it comes to the tragedy of a people.

His political program is based on tribal loyalties, and his chief protagonist Mr. Talabani is in the same boat. Even the PKK and its assumed internationalism and defence of the wretched of the earth, would not hesitate to destroy lives and properties belonging to the supposed oppressed classes.

Nevertheless, they seem to be true to their internationalism when it comes to killing that does not recognize ethnic origin. The biggest losers are the Kurdish people, and the real winners are those who want to preserve their influence and power base in the most cynical exploitation of emotions and human suffering. All the financial resources spent on weaponry and killing, could have fed, taught, and housed thousands of poverty and disease stricken Kurdish children and adults. But alas, Kurdistan will remain the killing fields of our region.

Even by the standards of the Middle East, it is shocking when one observes how Barzani manages to muster support. A while ago, and overnight, he called upon the assistance of the Iraqi army to help him fight the forces of Mr. Talabani and managed to get this support. Of course, predictably, the world went up in arms and Iraq was threatened with immediate response unless it stopped interfering in Kurdish affairs. The episode passed unnoticed later on, and the fighting Kurdish factions came to an agreement, sponsored by Ankara.

What happened next, Mr. Barzani called on the support of the Turkish army to fight his battles against the PKK. Of course, Turkey was obliging, and went in with a force of over 50,000 troops to fight the PKK. The amazing issue is that, Mr. Barzani still treats the territories under his control, as private fiefdoms, and exclusive lands that know no sovereignty. Turkey was obliging because its troubles with the Kurdish communists are well known, but in all this the integrity of Iraq and the unity of its lands have become just a mere slogan, misused and abused in the international circles. It is a dangerous precedence for the international community to start playing around with mild and ineffectual condemnations when sovereign territories are invaded by the requests of one tribal leader or another.

Turkey's recent move in northern Iraq, has come at a time of national soul searching in the country between the sparring sessions with the military at one hand and the Refah government on the other. More interestingly, though one is not a subscriber to the conspiracy theories, it comes at a time when the joint manoeuvres between Turkey and Israel were postponed.

The press has written that such a postponement is due to the difference in outlook, between Mr. Erbakan and his Generals which may or may not be the case, but will this difference in outlook, influence the manner in which both, the Turkish government and military, view the borders of their neighbors. ■

● The grand old man of politics, Elias Freij quits public life after year of holding the fort. Mr Freij has been mayor of Bethlehem for the last 25 years. Since the establishment of the Palestine National Authority, Mr Freij became the Palestinian Minister of Tourism. At the ripe old age of 80, the mayor says that he wants to spend more time with his family. He has 20 grandchildren. Mr Freij says that he also wants to write his memoirs. A Greek Orthodox Christian, Mr Freij was elected mayor in 1972 and at times he came into conflict with the Palestine Liberation Organization for his controversial views of peace making.



The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).

Editorial & Advertising: Telephones 652-380, 645-380, Fax 648-298.

P.O. Box 9313, Postal Code 11191 Amman - Jordan. email: Star@arabia.com

URL: <http://www.arabia.com/star>

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Marwan Al Asmar

Editorial Team

Raed Al Abed (Home News Editor), Ilham Sadeq (Economic Editor),

Olivier Bras (French Editor), Zeid Nasser (Technology Editor),

Management & Production

Mahmoud Fares (General Administration), Qurban Hussain (Production),

Ali Nimer (Accountant), Zaki Qurban (Layout), Fouad Jbour (Archive)

The Star is serviced by LA Times-Washington Post News Service, Cartoons: News International

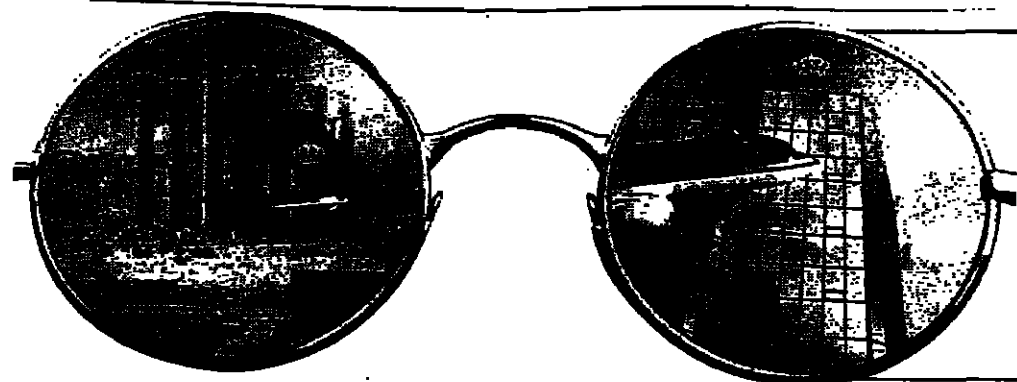
(Lurie cartoons), PANOS, The WorldPaper, Editors Press Service, STILLS and by

correspondents in the United States and South Asia.

Member of The International Advertising Association

Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan JD 30, Arab countries US\$ 100, W. Europe US\$ 200, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

Letters to the editor: Will be edited for brevity, must contain name and address of sender.



Amman-Detroit

Now, direct flights from Amman to Detroit on Saturdays. Effective 31st of May.
For details, call RJ Sales Offices or your local agent.

ROYAL JORDANIAN
Reflecting the Change.

Business scene

Negotiations were going on since the last few weeks to conclude a merger between The Bank of Jordan and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, but no agreement has been reached.

This is the second attempt to merge the two banks. The first was made three years ago, but the two sides failed to agree on the merger. The Jordan-Kuwait Bank intends to increase its capital to JD 20 million, either by capitalizing its reserves and earnings or through private subscription.

The third conference of the Arab Financial Markets in Lebanon starts Thursday 22 May. More than 300 Arab businessmen and bankers are taking part in the venue, in addition to foreign investors and investing funds. The conference agenda deals with economic reform programs, privatization in the Arab World, flows of foreign investments to the Arab markets, the investment climate in these countries, and the role of the private sector in financing and managing the infrastructure. From Jordan, the director of the Amman Financial Market, Mr. Wahib Al Shaer is expected to attend the conference in addition to the chairman of the board of the Arab Bank, Abdel Majid Shoman.

The Arab Islamic International Bank (AIIB) was established as a JD 40 million shareholding concern. The Arab Bank owns 97% of the AIIB's capital which is expected to run its banking and commercial services according to Islamic Sharia rules.

The Bank was registered in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In addition to the Arab Bank, shareholders in the new Islamic Bank are Abdul Majid Shoman, and Khaled Shoman. Yesterday, Wednesday, 21 May all accounts in the Amman Investment Bank were closed to launch the transitional stage to convert the Bank's ownership to the Arab Bank.

Foreign Exchange

Tuesday, 21 May

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFr	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEL	0.3667	0.3685
LYF (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Bank mergers would bring a more vibrant economy, official states

AMMAN (Star)—The banking sector in Jordan is on the verge of many and potentially exciting changes.

There are at present 21 commercial banks, including the Housing Bank, which is a housing-commercial bank. This is in addition to the Industrial Development Bank, the Cities and Villages Bank, the Cooperative Bank, and the Agricultural Credit Corp. The biggest bank is, by far, the Arab Bank, in terms of both equity and total assets.

The prevailing pattern of ownership is private, which is in line with the basic philosophy of the state towards economic activity. There is a noticeable concentration of ownership of most operating banks, while the banking sector is also characterized by both stability and conservatism, the President of the Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Studies (AABFS), Dr. Mustafa Hudeib told *The Star*.

All commercial banks succeeded in realizing the eight percent target ratio prescribed by the Basic Committee (BIS), while some banks overshot the ratio. This has been possible through both the issue of fresh share capital and higher profit retention, Dr. Hudeib added.

Whether it is conservatism or the well-established, assidue, British banking tradition, the higher percentage of funds is still allocated to short-term lending: financial trade (both local and foreign), working capital, the construction industry, and services. Because of the very small size of the public sector and the accelerated pace of privatization, bank funds are basically employed in the private sector.

Although banks have devoted considerable efforts to the achievement of balanced geographical coverage of populated areas, branches remain concentrated in Amman and Irbid. The introduction of technology is modest because of limited resources. The same holds true for bank marketing.

The banking sector is operating under a highly deregulated environment, whereby monetary policy relies heavily on general controls rather than on selective controls. There is also a consistent coordination between monetary and fiscal policies, on the one hand, and economic policy on the other. It is noteworthy to say that Jordan has been implementing most of the recommendations of the IMF, and that it is structural adjustment and economic

reform programs are quite successful.

The banking system operates increasingly within a strategy, focused on globalization, and economic integration with other Arab countries.

The Amman Financial Market is one of the most effective among Arab emerging markets, playing a significant role in private capital formation and privatization. However, most financial instruments are still traditional and are in the form of ordinary shares. Both the banking system and the Financial Market have been instrumental in attracting Arab and foreign capital investment, the AABFS president pointed out.

Bank mergers have so far taken place in Jordan on a limited scale, and were concentrated naturally on the acquisition of small banks by larger banks, on the one hand, and weak banks by stronger banks.

Bank mergers in Jordan are designed mostly to achieve many advantages, Dr. Hudeib pointed out. These include:

- More efficient operation, because of the economies of the mass-scale production of services, cost-saving, and better organization.

- Diversification of loans and investments, on both a sectoral and geographic basis.

- Increasing loan ceilings, which are usually based on equity, total assets or other variables.

- More balanced skill and cultural mix, because of the combination of more than one bank into one organization.

- More adequate bank equity and higher levels of solvency.

- Wider relationships with



Hudeib

correspondent banks abroad.

- Better coverage of geographic areas, because of wider branch networks.

- It is easier to achieve bank size through mergers, as compared with the establishment of new branches.

- Realizing the advantages of synergy.

- Widening the market for the shares of the merged banks.

- Expression of the bundle of services and products to satisfy changing customer needs.

- Application of advanced, or more sophisticated, technologies.

- Stronger ability to compete in the markets, vis-a-vis

other banks and financial institutions.

On the other hand, for bank mergers to realize these advantages, free and effective competition should be preserved for the benefit of the customer base. In other words, the decline in the number of banks should not adversely affect bank efficiency and customer services, nor should it lead to some degree of monopoly.

The Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Studies is a pan-Arab regional academy working under the umbrella of the Arab League, with two specific major functions—education in the field of banking and finance. And professional training for the banking and financial sector.

The AABFS covers 21 Arab countries and functions to bring Arab bankers together through training and educational programs.

Since it began, the Academy has graduated more than 1000 Arabs in banking. Over the last five years the Academy has trained more than 11,000 bank employees through its professional training programs.

Dr. Hadeib continued to say that the Academy cooperates with local and international banking institutions and bodies like the American Bankers Association, Chartered Institute of Bankers and the International Securities Markets Association.

British Midland expands its route network from East Midlands Airport

BRITISH MIDLAND is to launch its first scheduled flights to Portugal from East Midlands Airport, further extending its position as The Airline for Europe.

With fares starting at £199, the weekly flights to Faro will operate each Thursday from 26 June to 30 October, the peak holiday season, for the convenience of local passengers.

Austin Reid, managing director, said: "The introduction of this route helps to meet the needs of local travelers by offering them another popular holiday destination from the conveniently situated East Midlands Airport. It complements our existing summer services to Malaga, Palma and Nice and highlights our commitment to expanding our regional network."

Prince Al Waleed becomes shareholder of Magnesia Company

IN CONJUNCTION with his continued contribution to distinguished projects in Arab countries, Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal Bin Abdel Azziz, and chairman of the Saudi Arabia Holding Company signed a new agreement making him a founder shareholder of the \$43 million Jordan Magnesia Co.

Chairman of the Founders Committee, Mr. Talal Arefat, announced that the prince is the only Arab shareholder. The rest of the shares are held by major Jordanian companies and institutions such as the Dead Sea Industries Co., Arab Potash Co., Social Security Fund, Jordan Investment Corp., Industrial Development Bank, Jordan Investment and Finance Bank and the Arab Bank.

Mr. Arefat added that the Company was established on May 15 and elected its first Board of Directors.

Magnesia, which relies on minerals extracted from Dead Sea brine, is expected to start production at the end of 1999. The project's capacity will



Prince Al Waleed

cover seven percent of the world market for Magnesia Oxide.

This investment is the third in less than six months since the prince's last visit to Jordan. His investments in Jordan, in addition to the Jordan Magnesia Co., include a majority shareholding in the Mediterranean Tourism Co., (Amman Four Seasons) and the Philadelphia Investment Bank.

Prince Al Waleed is a private

entrepreneur and an international investor who holds substantial interests in Saudi Arabia that includes the United Saudi Commercial Bank, Saudi Cairo Bank, Azizia-Panda United Corp., Herfy Fats Food Co., Deemah United Food Industries Corp., Azizia Commercial Investment Co., Al Mawashi Al Mukarash United Livestock Co., National Industrialization Co., Silki La Silki Telecommunication Co., Arab Radio and Television and Rotana Audio-Visual Production Co.

He has substantial international holdings in Citicorp, the global bank holding company, the Four Seasons Regent International, a luxury hotel chain, the Fairmont Hotel chain, Saks Fifth Avenue—the US fashion retailer, the Plaza Hotel in New York, the George V Hotel in Paris, the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, the Four Seasons Hotel in London, the Disneyland theme park in Paris, the Canary Wharf.

Bahraini expo seeks to establish strong ties with Jordan

MORE THAN fifty Bahraini companies are taking part in the first Bahraini exhibition in Jordan to be held from 2-6 June at Philadelphia Hotel.

"Made in Bahrain" is organized by the Bahraini Trade Ministry and the Bahrain International Show and the Jordanian "Al Madina Information."

Industrial products on display include oil industry equipment, aluminum products, petrochemicals, textiles, garments, mechanical instruments, foodstuffs, furniture, electrical products, plastics, rubbers, Bahraini tobacco, mineral water, medical equipment, hotel and hospital accessories, paper made products, paintings, sport shoes, Bahraini jewelry and some Bahraini handicrafts.

Participating institutions include the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, ministries of Cabinet Affairs and Information, oil and industry, Bahrain

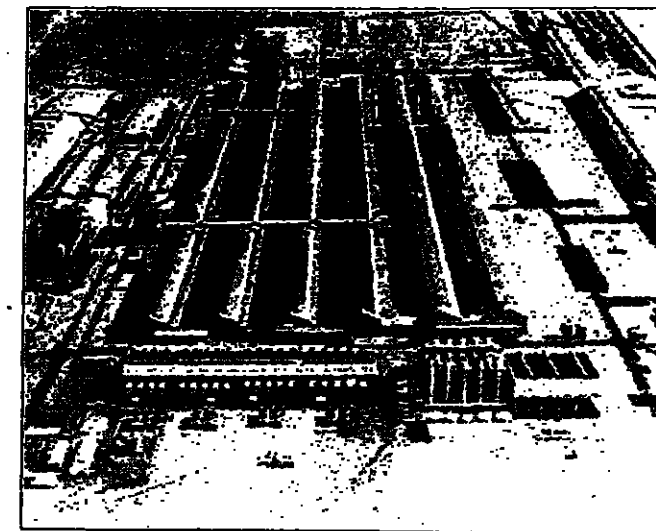
Chamber of Trade and Industry and the Bahrain Council for Promotion and Marketing.

A high level Bahraini business delegation will be headed by the Bahraini Minister of Trade, Ali Saleh Al Saleh.

More than 35 Bahraini businessmen will visit Jordan during the expo. They are seeking to establish business ties with their counterparts in the Amman Chamber of Industry and make links with importers and producers from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria.

The Amman Chamber of Industry will hold a seminar to discuss future economic relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing investment opportunities and carry out joint ventures between.

Other working papers are dealing with the potential of commercial and industrial en-



An aerial view of Bahrain's national industries

vironment in Bahrain and the incentives this country provides for investors.

Foreign investors are now

allowed to completely own a project in Bahrain without the need to have a Bahraini partner.

UN books promote 'good governance' for sustainable development

TWO NEW United Nations Development Program Publications, *Governance for Sustainable Human Development* and *Reconceptualizing Governance*, examine the critical role of good governance in promoting economic development and enlarging the choices of all people in society to better their living conditions.

Good governance is first and foremost participatory, transparent, accountable and equitable. It promotes the rule of law—not the rule of men—and equal justice under the law. Good governance ensures that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and that the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable are heard in the decision-making process. Sustainable human development will not be possible without strong, effective and capable governance, says James Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator.

More than a third of UNDP programme expenditures are currently allocated to governance projects in developing and transition countries. The policy papers identify five priority areas for governance programming that UNDP believes will best achieve the overall goals of poverty eradication and sustainable human development.

These include support to:

- Governing institutions: legislatures, judiciaries, and electoral bodies

- Public and private sector management

- Decentralization and support to local governance

- Civil society organizations

- Governance in special circumstances, such as post-crisis situations

UNDP is the United Nations largest provider of grant funding for development. Its support to strengthening governance practices and institutions aims to foster long-term economic growth, social cohesion and political stability in developing and transition countries.

Governance for Sustainable Human Development provides a framework for future assistance in support of good governance projects in developing and transition countries. Governance is defined as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

This broad concept of governance includes not only the

state, but also the private sector and civil society. All three are critical to progress and UNDP is now expanding its support to civil society organizations and the private sector in an effort to promote development at every level of society. Above all, UNDP aims to promote constructive interaction among all three sectors to address problems and take advantage of development opportunities at local, regional and national levels.

Governance is no longer a system in national isolation, the policy paper observes. Rather, governance institutions must today interact globally, gain inspiration from international trends and provide a national environment that is conducive to overall development. The paper addresses this new situation and outlines UNDP's role in helping countries strengthen their governance institutions to better meet the political and economic challenges posed by the forces of globalization.

Reconceptualizing Governance provides an in-depth discussion on the role of governance in development. It examines the specific impact of the three domains of governance—the state, the private sector, and civil society—on poverty eradication policies,

promotion of economic growth, protection of the environment, enhancement of central and local government performance, and promotion of gender equality and social cohesion.

The publication also explores the dramatic changes in economic, political and social systems since the early 1980s and the impact these changes have had on national governance institutions and sustainable human development. It examines the challenges posed by environmental degradation, economic globalization, religious and ethnic tensions, the collapse of communism and the emergence of regional alliances. It continues with a discussion on the need for building governance capacity to effectively promote poverty alleviation, job growth, protection of the environment and gender equality.

The final chapter issues a call for international aid organizations to find ways to incorporate concepts of good governance into the design and implementation of all their development activities. Good governance practices and institutions must be enhanced, it argues, to enable countries to effectively implement policies to achieve sustainable human development.

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Middle East Complex ■ Intel Electricity ■ Arab International Bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cairo Bank ■ Middle East Complex ■ Arab Financial Investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Middle East Bank ■ National Portfolio Securities ■ Sharp Investment Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Portfolio Securities ■ Arab Cement For Pharm. Industry ■ National Aluminum Industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Salary House ■ Chemical Industry Union ■ Arab Electric Industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wooten Industry ■ Al-Taqat Industry ■ National Cables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nayef Dies & Moulds ■ Arab Insurance ■ National Engineering Industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wooten Industry ■ National Industry ■ Unwired Industry

General Price Index	156,640	155,928	151,840	156,130
Trade Volume	1332912	623376	645770	1313594
Stock Volume	717456	455258	533411	594005

Highest Traded Stocks	326086	18284	159224	36732
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cement Factory ■ Cairo Bank ■ Arab Potash ■ Cement Factory 				

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646848 Fax: 646949



Response

Khour



According to its annual report, the Pre-tax-profit amounted to JD 10.4 million by the end of last year compared

Continued on page 7

Also the increase in interest rates in '96 contributed to the growth in TMDs in 1996 as a percentage of total deposits.

the banking sector in general could benefit positively, and some of the smaller banks could themselves benefit positively by merging and spreading their

Continued on page 4

Your local global bank.

A black and white photograph showing a man in a suit sitting at a desk in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Behind him is a large, multi-story building with a sign that reads "THE NEWSPAPER". The scene is framed by a circular, textured border.

بنك الإسكان
THE HOUSING BANK
AN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK

CITIZEN INQUIRY TELEPHONE AT THE HOUSING BANK IS (680) 111

By Lynne Duke

KASHAFA A. GONGE, the
members that resigned a
few days and wanted to
the country and Machel
the first tentative steps toward
the funeral ceremony and
life of this was central to
At the same time, remain
the business that had been
from Machel's successors
sought to establish a new
standing with the
government.

The expansion of capitalism
has prompted a number of
rebels against the state. In
continued Machel was
was returned to their
merchants returned to their
sells.

But new rebels are
in some countries, the state

An officer in Mohr's
Monday.

Wha

Re Scott Peterson

KAKSALA, 47, was in the long-term care of the Coast if he had not told that doctor about his condition. There was no record of a prior stroke, he said. As Salal, doctor at the British hospital in Kumbakonam, said, he was not a doctor. He was like a doctor, he said.

But for Iraq's history — a seven-year American pro-democracy Hussein — invaded Kuwait and the United Nations imposed sanctions — those are over.

For months, said Dr. Sridhar, increased Iraqi gathering reached crisis point.

hospital and there are a
people in each room who
malnourished," he says.

Few doubt that the last fond in Iraq is exacting a heavy toll. But few agree on the real reasons that several

Bombarded by the anti-
rhetoric, most Iraqis blame
UN sanctions, which the U
chief

proponent—wants
until Iraq's capaci-
its oil-exporting na-
is eliminated.

relief officials and diplomats
sanctions are only part of
problem
They point out

...point to Iraq's re-
to take advantage of humani-
ian exemptions and to its
five military spending in
1980's, which

They also note its cy-

British Bank st

Continued from page 4

...risk, but the increase in
...opportunity in comp
...banks.

As an international bank, does the British Bank view the economic situation?

view the economic situation forward to steady growth. Actions taken as a result of such as the...

We see the Jordan economy

Today the GDP averages
inflation rate is low

Our own forecasts anticipate a recovery for the economy starting up again in 1992.

1998

With new name, former Zaire begins process of rebuilding nation

By Lynne Duke

KINSHASA, Congo—The rebel movement that toppled Mobutu Sese Seko and seized control of this country last Monday took its first tentative steps toward fixing the ruined economy and civic life of this vast capital city.

At the same time, members of the business elite that benefited from Mobutu's autocratic rule sought assurances about their standing with the new government.

The explosion of euphoria that has gripped Kinshasa since the rebels entered on last Saturday continued Monday as civil servants returned to their jobs and merchants returned to their market stalls.

But new tensions could be felt in some quarters because of spi-

raling prices, food and gasoline shortages and the general economic anarchy brought on by Kinshasa's fall.

And with officials of Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire spreading their military apparatus throughout the city, the hunt was under way for suspected enemies.

Two days after a sweep into the city that left 222 of its 5 million people dead, alliance officials set up headquarters at the posh InterContinental Hotel. The corridors were filled all day with the anxious din of hundreds of business, political and civic leaders, all awaiting clues on how the alliance will govern.

Joe Endondo Bononge, chairman of the National Chamber of Commerce, said business

leaders are eager to participate in alliance plans. "We are here to make this country work," he said.

Now that their military victory is sealed after a seven-month drive across Africa's third-largest nation, the alliance's first political signals came in the form of a town hall-style meeting with business leaders. The alliance's planning minister, Babi Mbayi, sought their comments and questions on several issues, such as currency fluctuation and the flow of goods around the country.

Regarding business leaders who founished under—and because of—Mobutu's corrupt and venal government, Mbayi offered assurances to the crowd of about 500.

"We are a government that forgives," he said. "We will not

waste our time hunting people or settling scores."

That reassuring and participatory style of leadership seemed to contradict, however, the alliance's declaration that Kinshasans, especially the poor, will need to undergo ideological reeducation.

The alliance has employed the technique in many cities seized during its military campaign, making indoctrination classes a prerequisite for those seeking jobs within the alliance. Also to be instituted here are citizen "cells" at the neighborhood level to maintain order.

Repeating what alliance officials have said for months, Desgras Bugera, an alliance spokesman, said Monday that political reeducation in the post-Mobutu era will be a first step to holding elections. Alliance officials say Zairians are beset by a "spirit of submission and servility" dating from the days of colonialism and exploited further by Mobutu's three decades of callous rule. Bugera said in the alliance's first news conference here.

Kabila, who remained in the southern city of Lubumbashi on Monday, has announced an interim national government, and he has pledged to establish a constituent assembly in 60 days.

Although Kabila, who has proclaimed himself president, has assured foreign nations that elections ultimately will be held, his officials have set no date. Opinion polling—an inexact science here—suggests that Kabila would not win the presidency. Many people see him as a valiant liberator but say they hope to finally have a choice for president—something Mobutu never allowed.

Kabila's alliance has renamed Zaire the Democratic Republic of Congo. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in Washington that the United

States will refer to the country by its new name—actually the name it adopted at independence in 1960, only to have Mobutu change it in 1971.

"Zaire went away on Friday afternoon," Burns said, pegging the change to the point at which Mobutu fled Kinshasa. "That country has vanished."

The name change is sure to create confusion, and perhaps diplomatic friction, with Congo's neighbor, the Republic of Congo.

But alliance officials have many more immediate and pressing problems to contend with, all of which converge on Kinshasa. The commercial infrastructure has been so pillaged and neglected by Mobutu and his ruling circle that banks are only marginal economic players; most commerce is conducted in the informal sector or black market. Roads are so rutted that cars can be swallowed by gaping potholes. Electricity does not operate in many neighborhoods. Effective health care is virtually nonexistent, while malaria and other diseases run rampant.

On the political front, Kinshasa was tied in political knots for seven years as Mobutu's supporters and their parliamentary opponents wrangled over democratic reforms but never actually produced them.

Kabila's movement has sent mixed messages to opposition figures who demand a role in the new government.

With the arrival of Kabila's forces, many of whom are ethnic Tutsis from eastern Zaire or Rwanda, yet another volatile element has entered the mix. Thirteen patients were removed from a Kinshasa hospital today by rebel soldiers, who beat them and took them to a rebel camp, a health official said. Reportedly among them were several men suspected of being Rwandan Hutus who fought against the

rebels on the side of Mobutu's army.

Over the weekend, several soldiers in Mobutu's armed forces were killed by angry mobs, but most soldiers' deaths appear to have occurred at the hands of rebels in a series of relatively minor battles in Kinshasa with the few holdouts of Mobutu's forces. At least one soldier was summarily executed by alliance troops.

The total death toll for the weekend takeover stood at 222

Monday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

The occupation of the city sent scores of high-level military and political figures who were close to Mobutu across the Congo River in boats to Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo.

Among them was one of Mobutu's sons, Capt. Mobutu Kongo of the military's Special Presidential Division, who is nicknamed "Saddam Hussein" and is reviled by many. Kabila's

forces have accused him of killing Mobutu Sese Seko's last defense minister and army chief of staff, Gen. Mahlele Licko Bakungu, who had warned the elder Mobutu that Kinshasa could not be defended from the onslaught. The general was assassinated while trying to persuade the loyal presidential division to lay down its arms. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Mobutu seeks place of refuge after retreat from Kinshasa

By William Drozdiak

RABAT, Morocco—So where is he? The plush Hotel Amphitrite, a few miles down the Atlantic coast from this capital, has been sequestered for his convenience and surrounded by gendarmes. But there have been no sightings of the man in the leopard-skin hat.

Since he pulled out of Kinshasa last week to his northern refuge of Gbadolite, Mobutu Sese Seko's humiliating retreat from power has started to assume the inglorious wanderings of a modern Flying Dutchman.

He was reported to have flown into this North African monarchy Sunday, but officials close to King Hassan II insisted Monday that he never arrived. Palace sources say that even if Mobutu does avail himself of Moroccan hospitality, he would be granted only temporary refuge.

Another possible destination is Liechtenstein, but the tiny tax haven in the Alps has made it abundantly clear that Mobutu would not be welcome. France reportedly is Mobutu's personal preference, but his presence there before national elections are held this month could be a severe embarrassment for President Jacques Chirac and his political allies.

Once hailed as a friend of the West and an African bulwark in the geopolitical struggle against communism, Mobutu is discovering that the outside world can be a harsh and unwelcoming place for a disgraced dictator.

News services reported last Monday that Mobutu's first stop after he fled his stronghold in what was then still called Zaire on Saturday night was the West African country of Togo. He was said to be resting there and commiserating about his bleak prospects with his host, Gnassingbe Eyadema, whose reputation for plundering his nation's resources approaches that of his notorious guest.

Representatives of Congo's new leader, Laurent Kabila, have declared that any country offering shelter to Mobutu would be committing "an unfriendly act." They said they will press for his early extradition so he can stand trial—possibly before an international tribunal—for the abuses he is accused of perpetrating during nearly 32 years in power.

French officials say those threats will not influence any decision about granting

Mobutu permission to stay in their country. He has

traveled regularly in the past to France, where he owns a villa worth more than \$5 million near Nice. He has expressed a desire to settle there to continue treatment for his prostate cancer in nearby Monaco, according to Western diplomats here.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government has not broached the issue because it has not received a formal request from Mobutu. "We do not know his intentions yet," he said.

Nonetheless, French commentators have stressed that Chirac and his governing allies are worried that allowing Mobutu into the country would magnify opposition charges that the ruling center-right alliance committed serious blunders that have undermined France's stature in Africa.

Until France's election campaign is over and Chirac decides it is politically safe to let Mobutu into the country, Western diplomats and Moroccan officials say it would be plausible on several counts for King Hassan to offer temporary refuge to the fallen dictator.

Like the Shah of Iran, who traveled to Morocco on his first voyage into exile, Mobutu is afflicted with a life-threatening disease.

"Hassan has a special bond with powerful rulers who suffer a bad twist of fate. He also wants to stand by those who support Morocco's sovereignty claims in southern Sahara, and



Mobutu

Mobutu was a strong ally on that issue," a senior Western diplomat said.

In the 1970s, King Hassan dispatched some of Morocco's crack troops to help Mobutu's army put down a secessionist movement in Zaire's copper-rich Shaba province. But two months ago, when Mobutu stopped here to plead for new military assistance to resist Kabila's advances, the king refused.

Even more than bailing out Mobutu, Hassan would relish the opportunity to provide a big favor to his close friend, Chirac. The Moroccan king was dismayed by the deterioration in relations with France under Chirac's Socialist predecessor, Francois Mitterrand.

Among his many foreign properties, Mobutu owns an ornate palace in the southern Moroccan oasis of Marrakech. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

The hungry Iraqis

What's behind the blame game

By Scott Peterson

KARBALA, Iraq—In 1985, long before the 1991 Gulf War, it was a spectacle that drew doctors from across Iraq: "There was one case of malnutrition," recalls Abdul Kareem Salal, a doctor at the children's hospital in Karbala, "and it was like a disaster. Nobody had ever seen it before."

But for Iraqis today—nearly seven years after president Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and the United Nations imposed sanctions—those days are over.

For many like Dr. Salal, the increased Iraqi suffering has reached crisis point. "Now you walk into any hospital, and there are a dozen people in each room who are malnourished," he says.

Few doubt that the lack of food in Iraq is exacting a growing toll. But few agree on the real reasons that several thousand children die each month.

Bombarded by the anti-west rhetoric, most Iraqis blame the UN sanctions, which the US as chief proponent—wants in place until Iraq's capacity to invade its oil-exporting neighbors is eliminated.

But among UN and Western relief officials and diplomats, sanctions are only part of the problem.

They point to Iraq's refusal to take advantage of humanitarian exemptions and to its massive military spending in the 1980's, which wrecked the economy even before the Gulf war.

They also note its cynical manipulation of the "sanctions card" that appears to have rein-

forced Saddam's rule.

US officials insist that sanctions target Iraq's leadership and aren't meant as a collective punishment for the war.

But images of emaciated children, juxtaposed against a steady supply of pricey new cars on the streets of Baghdad for the ruling elite, are steadily undermining support for the embargo.

"It's clear the government is not weakened at all," says a western relief official. "They use sanctions to strengthen their grip. It raises a lot of questions: are these sanctions effective?"

In the children's hospital at Karbala, the impact is obvious—at seven years resembling cases of famine in Africa, one two-year-old boy, Amjil, is barely 12 pounds.

"We have many, many like this," says Salal. Accurate figures are difficult to come by, but a 1995 UNICEF report noted that 28 percent of the children under five years old were underdeveloped. Across Iraq, more than half the hospitalized children are malnourished.

"So what if the monthly death toll is 4,500 (the Iraqi figure for child deaths) or if it is 4,299—it is all semantics," says Philippe Heppnick, the Belgian head of the UN children's fund in Iraq. "What is important is that there is a serious problem for children today, and it's deteriorating fast."

For a country that boasted an oil-driven per capita income of more than \$8,000 in 1979, the fall has been hard. Income has dropped to less than \$500 a year, and 15 percent of the

population of 22 million is now at risk of malnutrition.

The UN considers the situation throughout Iraq to be "disastrous," with the "majority" of the civilian population believed to be living below the poverty line. But it says sanctions aren't only to blame.

Iraq's ability to maintain a high standard of living began to slip well before the Gulf war. The long Iran-Iraq war of the 1980's hurt Iraq's oil production, saddled it with tens of billions in debt, and soaked up well over half the national budget.

Though Iraq's annual foreign exchange earnings grew 50-fold from 1970 to 1980, to \$26 billion, it was squandered on a war that Iraq initiated.

UN Security Council resolutions since 1990 have all carried humanitarian-aid and food exemptions. And for years Iraq rejected an oil-for-food deal—closely supervised by the UN—that allows the sale of \$2 billion of Iraqi oil every six months to buy food and medicine and pay war reparations.

Sanctions are to be lifted when the UN certifies that all of Iraq's extensive missile and weapons of mass destruction programs—nuclear, chemical, and biological—are eliminated. Due to Iraqi obfuscation, UN



officials say, that day will not come soon.

Iraqi officials, however, they accuse the US of trying to maintain its dominance in the region by permanently disabling Iraq's military and technological prowess.

"America and the UN know (all weapons of mass destruction) have been destroyed by

their hands, but they use it as an excuse to keep sanctions to hurt the Iraqi people," claims Minister of Trade Mahdi Mohamed Saleh. "They've killed 1 million people. That is the crime. It is bigger than Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Christian Science Monitor

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

in cooperation with Pennsylvania State University, USA

present

THE ORCHESTRA OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY and Pu-Qi Jiang, visiting conductor

Special Appearance

James Lyon, violin

Wednesday, 28 May 1997- 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Center-Main Theatre

Ticket price: JD 7

The program features Egmout Overture by Beethoven, Violin Concerto by Max Bruch and Symphony No. 8 by Antonin Dvorak.

Tickets available at:

- Alahia Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
- Alisar Flowers, tel. 5527695
- Arisana, tel. 647858
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Caffe Moka, tel. 856285
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- Philadelphia Book Gallery, tel. 5515861
- Radisson SAS Hotel, tel. 607100
- Safeway, tel. 685311
- The Royal Cultural Center, tel. 669026
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620



BritishBank stresses quality of services for its clients

Continued from page 6

own risk, but the increase in size gives them a better opportunity to compete with the larger local banks.

As an international banking group, how does the BritishBank view the regional economic situation?

We view the economic situation as stable and look forward to steady growth.

Actions taken as a result of past financial shocks such as the collapse in oil prices some years ago have led to the introduction of better financial management and economic planning.

We see the Jordan economy as performing soundly under the auspices of the IMF adjustment programme.

Today the GDP averages at 5-6%, the underlying inflation rate is low and the fiscal targets are being met.

Our own forecasts anticipate a period of consolidation for the economy during 1997 but picking up again in 1998. ■

HousingBank's strategy enhances its role in building sound national economy

Continued from page 6

with JD10.2 million in 1995. Its assets rose by JD 33 million compared with 1995 to reach JD 1.136 billion.

Its reserve balance rose to hit JD 56.3 million, more than double its paid up capital. Shareholders rights went up to JD 81.3 million. This puts the Housing Bank in second rank among Jordanian banks.

The growth ratio in deposits at the Housing Bank exceeded the total deposits of the whole of the banking sector in the country. The Banks client's deposits stood at 5.5%, while those of the banking sector as a whole were 3.5%.

Total housing loans offered by the Housing Bank in 1996 was JD 225 million.

Since its foundation the Bank has extended housing loans worth JD 2266 million.

The Housing Bank has two branches in Palestine, one in Gaza and the other in Nablus; it also plans to open a third branch in that city sometime this year. ■

AROUND TOWN

Sounds of Paraguay thrill Inter-Con

The next time you have the urge to snap your fingers and tap your feet to a vivacious Latino beat, just swing by the Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan. Flown in especially for entertainment in the Bahamas Terrace, the duo creates a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere. Renowned in top hotels in Switzerland, the duo is a musical experience that should not be missed. Currently, the Paraguayan duo can be heard in different outlets. During the summer, they can be found in the Bahamas Terrace.



Freddy for Music

A musical feat at RCC

By Anca de Maio
Special to The Star

The third annual 'Freddy for Music' recital held last Sunday at the Royal Cultural Center was a pleasant and constructive event that surprised the public with its original conception and large variety of styles. This year it has been the instructors of the 'Freddy for Music' school that stepped onto the stage to perform before their students and their families.

The recital comprised solo interpretations of classical music by Chopin, Ravel, Debussy, Stravinsky, Albeniz, etc., and pop and jazz bands, that. This was under the rainbow of the light effects provided by Marwan Abu Jaber's team. Modern pieces by Jean-Michel Jarre, Gershwin, Clayderman, were played by Travelian Sako (piano teacher) and Robert Michel (guitar teacher). A duet, piano and violin by Shahla Haddad and Oksana Musleh prepared the transition between the two acts of the show just before the intermission.

"We have decided to change the roles this time and to give the teachers the chance to play in front of a large audience," Freddy Daoud, the director of the school said. "Among the 17 instructors of the school there were few that had not performed in the presence of such a large public. It has been a challenge for them to introduce themselves this way and an honour for us to show the excellent and qualified team

that tutor the 450 students of our school," he continued.

According to Mr Daoud, the repertoire of this recital has brought together classical and modern pieces so as to satisfy a wide palette of tastes and especially to attract teenagers' interest in music. "Let us not forget that the youth represent 65 percent of the population of Jordan," he said. "The fact that such a big number of adolescents could come tonight, despite being all in full exam session, proves that they do love the music we teach them."

Real fans of the classical guitar "magician," Robert Michel, the Jordanian teenagers dream of playing one day like him. "Many of them would like to play just rock or metal music, but I personally teach advanced classical guitar and flamenco only," Mr Michel said.

"Piano, violin, guitar, drum, brass and wind instruments classes are given to beginners, intermediate and advanced students in our school," Mr Daoud added. After two years of initiation for kindergarten children, students take an entrance exam to the first grade. At the end of the eighth grade, students receive a worldwide recognized diploma on the basis of a final exam evaluated in England, he explained.

The "Freddy for Music" criteria of teacher-recruiting are talent, teaching experience and open character. "In our opinion two fundamental elements make a good teacher: combining the fun of playing an instrument with visible



Teachers at the helm: Now it's their turn to play

progress," underlined Mr Daoud. "It is very rewarding for us as well as for the parents to see how their children improve constantly." Ms Mary Daoud said.

A wonderful example of amazingly quick progress is Dina Ghazzawi aged 8. The only student participant in Sunday's musical evening, the talented girl started to take piano courses at the 'Freddy for music' school just four months ago. Her convincing interpretation and perfect synchronization with the rest of the band charmed the public to the great satisfaction of her instructor Mr Sako.

"The students' recital this year will take place in October," Mr Daoud declared. "Thus our students will have the opportunity to show the skills they have developed since they entered our school to a larger audience than that of our monthly workshops. "It is a yearly event that he considers necessary and complementary to the students' micro recitals given every month at school in the presence of their parents and teachers, and followed by comments upon their interpretation, training difficulties and achievements."

Shahin wins Cannes film festival award

EGYPTIAN DIRECTOR Youssef Shahin wins the much coveted 50th anniversary trophy of the Cannes Festival for International Cinema for his latest film "Al Masir" (Fate).

Shahin is a well respected film director who has produced many films from the 1950's onwards. His films, which won great respect among Arab audiences, are based on social realism and lately has provided a critique of religious fundamentalism.



Aga Khan Award seeks the best for Muslim architecture

THE AGA Khan Award for Architecture announced the appointment of its 1998 Master Jury. The Award recognizes outstanding achievements in architecture in all the different cultures and environments where Muslim communities have a significant presence. The award prize fund of \$500,000—the world's largest and most prestigious architectural prize—is attributed by the independent Master Jury appointed for each three-year cycle. Procedures leading to the 1998 Award were begun during 1996, and the current cycle marks the twentieth anniversary since the Award was founded in 1977.

Members of the 1998 Award Master Jury are: Professor Mohammed Arkoun, Historian of Islamic Thought in the Sorbonne; Ms Zaha Hadid, an architect in London; Mr Arif Hassan, an architect and planner from Karachi; Dr Saleh Al Hashimi, an architect and planner from Riyadh; Mr Arata Isozaki, an architect in Tokyo; Professor Fredric Jameson, a cultural theorist from Duke University, USA; Mr Rami Khasha, an architect and economist, New Delhi; Mr Yusef Saliya, an Architectural Historian, Jakarta; Mr Dogan Tekeli, an architect, in Istanbul.

The rigorous documentation and review procedures established by the Award require three meetings of the jury, in October 1997 and in February and June 1998, leading to the announcement of the Award winners at a ceremony to be held during the third quarter of 1998.

For the current cycle, eligible projects must have been completed and in use since 1 January 1996, and should be intended for use primarily by Muslims. All categories of building are eligible for consideration, including social and community efforts, restoration and re-use, and a full range of contemporary, environmental, and industrial initiatives.

Over 60 projects located throughout the Muslim world and in the West have received awards in the past, including well-known masterpieces as well as projects not previously publicized. Among the previous winning projects are the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Conservation of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, the Re-forestation of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, the Regional Hospital in Kaedi, Mauritania, the Great Mosque and City Centre Re-development of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Kampung Improvement Programmes in Jakarta, Surabaya, and Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A retrospective exhibition

entitled *Architecture for a Changing World* is now circulating at venues throughout the world and features all of the award projects from 1977 through 1995.

Following the pattern established during the past Award cycle, the Award has facilitated the enrollment procedures to ensure a wide spectrum of project candidates. Application may be made directly to the Award office in Geneva, though all projects must then pass the scrutiny of an initial, confidential nomination process before being documented.

Beyond the individual winning projects, the Award is conceived as an ongoing process and in important forum for the debate and exchange of ideas. Accordingly, each Master Jury comprises not only architects, but also scholars, historians, social scientists, and representatives of a wide range of disciplines affecting the built environment. For the first time, in 1995, the deliberations of the jury were made public, and published in the cyclical Award monograph entitled *Architecture Beyond Architecture* (Academy Editions, London, 1995).

For more information contact the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, PO Box 2049, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Inter-Continental Jordan welcomes a new executive chef

BE ON the look out for a variety of new tastes with Inter-Continental Jordan's new Executive Chef, Rolf Brenner. A native of Germany, Brenner graduated his apprenticeship at Restaurant Stauder-Zentral in Essen, Germany. Brenner has participated in many culinary contests at Cornell University, Canada, and the Caribbean. Prior to coming to Jordan, Brenner worked as the executive chef in Hotel Melia and World Trade Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Musical education could be a next step in public schools

LAST TUESDAY, 13 May Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr Munther Al Masri, presented certificates to the participants in the Music Education Workshop for music education teachers. The workshop was held at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) Noor Al Hussein Foundation from 11 to 13 May 1997 in cooperation with Goethe Institute Amman.

Dr Masri said that three elements are needed for the Ministry of Education to adopt music related activities. The first is the availability of educational material which is currently being prepared by the NMC. The second is trained music instructors which the NMC could play a role in preparing. The third element is the infrastructure, the Minister added.

Dr Al Masri pointed out that music has become a basic requirement at government schools, emphasizing the need to discover and support talents and exceptional musicians.

Director of the NMC, Mr Kifah Fakhouri, said that holding this workshop comes within the context of the preparations being made for implementing the Music curriculum at all schools which the NMC is preparing its learning materials (student book, teacher manual

and classroom cassettes) as commissioned by the Ministry of Education.

Mr Fakhouri stressed the importance of obtaining the accreditation of the Ministry of Education for NMC students so that it could parallel the basic and secondary school years.

Director of the Goethe Institute Amman, Dr Wolfgang Ule also spoke during the presentation. Dr Ule thanked the NMC for their cooperation and expressed desire to further such activities that provide a platform for dialogue and cultural interaction between Jordan and Germany.

The workshop was supervised by the German music expert Dr Werner Freitag and was attended by music teachers from the Ministry of Social Development, SOS, Queen Alia Fund, New English School, Transasia College, Al Ahlia School For Girls, Amman Academy, Bishop School and Orthodox School.

Also attending the presentation were Chairperson of NMC's Committee, Mrs Hind Sherif Nasser, Cultural Attache at the German Embassy in Amman, Ms Ingrid Liedgens and principals of schools and other institutions taking.

Lebanese tourism visit proves a success



A LARGE Lebanese tourist delegation have arrived in Amman on Saturday on a three-day familiarization visit to the Kingdom. The visit, organized by Taybet Zaman Hotel and Resort—a Jordanian Tourism Investments (JTI) project, the Amman Forte Grand Hotel and East Med and sponsored by Royal Jordanian, aims to promote Jordan in the Lebanese market and enhance the cooperation between the tourism sectors in both countries.

The delegation met the Minister of Tourism Akel Belait, members of Royal Jordanian executive team, officials for the Jordan Tourism Board and JTI's management.

An extensive program was arranged to give the guests an insight into Jordan's historic and tourism sites.

Emphasizing the private sector's role in promoting Jordan's tourism potential, Mr. Suleiman Tarazi, marketing and development manager at JTI, said that "these activities are part of JTI's efforts and commitment to enhance the private sector efforts in promoting Jordan both regionally and internationally."

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"OK, boys—that'll be enough. We don't allow any gunplay in this town."



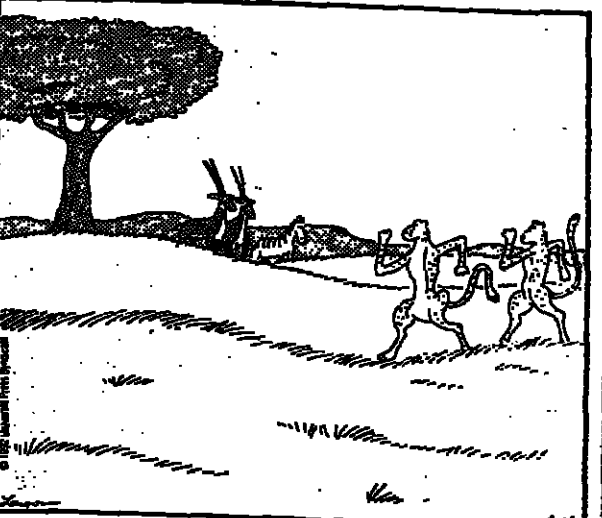
Animal horoscopes



"Uh-oh... Looks like the usual airplane food."



The Angel of Migraines



Alert, but far from panicked, the herbivores studied the sudden arrival of two cheetah speedwalkers.

Restrictions on press freedom do not stop with new law

Other laws such as the Penal Code exist to curb freedom of expression

AMMAN (Star)—Amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law were ratified by a Royal Decree, last Saturday.

Article 24/A orders daily newspapers to increase capital from JD 50,000 to JD 600,000. Section B of same article orders other publications and weeklies to increase their capital from JD 15,000 to JD 300,000. Both must do so within three months.

Article 13/B requires chief editors to have at least 10 years experience.

Amendments ended the daily's hope of reducing government control. They cancelled the article that divested the government of its equity in *Ad-Dustour* and *Al-Rai*.

The new law allows the government to maintain, through the Social Security Corp., and the Jordan Investment Corp., a controlling interest of 62 percent in *Al-Rai* and 32 percent equity in *Ad-Dustour*.

Law now cancels imprisonment for violations. Article 50/H gives courts the right to cease any newspaper that is convicted of violating Articles 40 and 42, and gives (informa-

tion) minister the right to allow the republication after paying the fines.

Fines and offences under Articles 40 and 42 (publishing of pending court proceedings) which originally did not exceed JD 1,000, and fines for offences under Article 44 did not exceed JD 6,000.

Amendments concerning these articles now have a minimum fine of JD 15,000 and a maximum of JD 25,000.

Article 40 of the Press and Publications Law forbids publication of news, views, opinions, analysis, information, reports, caricatures, photos or any sort that disparages any of the following:

■ Which offends the King and the Royal Family;

■ Information about the Jordanian Armed Forces and security forces, unless it is permitted either by the concerned authority or by a government official;

■ Materials which show contempt for any religion recognized by the Constitution;

■ Articles which damage national unity, or encourage racism, or foment hatred, discord and disharmony among

members of society;

■ Government documents of a confidential nature;

■ Minutes of closed sessions of Parliament;

■ Information which is intended to shake confidence in the national currency;

■ Information which contains a personal insult to the Heads of State of Arab, Islamic or friendly countries or that harms Jordanian relations with other countries;

■ Which offends the dignity or personal freedoms of individuals or damage their reputation;

■ Which includes false news or rumors that offend public interests or state departments.

Other laws that restrict the freedom of the press:

■ The Penal Code contains additional provisions which restrict freedom of expression and carry harsh penalties.

■ External Security of the State.

Article 118 of the Code protects the external security of the

state by punishing with imprisonment for at least five years, "anyone who, by writing or speech not authorized by the government, exposes the Kingdom to the danger of hostile actions, disturbs its relations with foreign states, or exposes Jordanians to physical or material retaliation." "Anyone who provokes incitement inside or outside the Kingdom by writing or speech may be sentenced to a prison term not exceeding two years and a fine of no more than JD 30" (Article 122). The definition of incitement includes humiliation of a foreign country, its dignity, its flag, or its national anthem.

Article 122 also prohibits the insult or humiliation of a head of state, its ministers, or its political representatives in the Kingdom and specifies that truth is not a defence to charges under this provision.

■ Dissemination of false news.

The deliberate dissemination of false or exaggerated information outside the country which attacks state dignity may be punished with a prison sentence of not less than six months and a fine of not more than JD 50. If the false or exaggerated news concerns the King, his successor, or the guardian of the throne, he or she may be sentenced to no less than one year's imprisonment (Article 132).

■ Defamation. Innuendo and Affronts against Public Officials.

The Penal Code defines defamation as "the imputation of a specific fault to a person, in a sceptical or interrogative manner, in such a way as to detract from his honour and dignity or expose him to hatred and contempt, regardless of whether the said fault constitutes a punishable offence" (Article 188). Innuendo is defined as an "attack on the dignity, honour or standing of another person, in a sceptical or interrogative manner, without specifying a particular fault" (Article 189). An affront is "any contemptuous insinuation or invective, other than defamation and innuendo, which is directed against the victim by word of mouth in his presence, by way of abuse, in writing or graphic form that is not made public, in

a telegraphic or telephone communication or by callous treatment." (Article 190).

Public officials are entitled to enhanced protection under the Code. Defamation is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months to two years if it is directed against the National Assembly (Parliament) or its members in the course of their work, or if it is directed against an official body, a court of law, a public institution, the army or any public servant in the discharge of his functions or as a result of action taken by virtue thereof" (Article 191). Innuendo is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of one to six months or a fine of JD 10-50 if it is directed against any of the bodies or persons mentioned in Article 191" (Article 193). Affront is "punishable by imprisonment for a term of two weeks to six months and/or a fine of JD 5-30 if it is directed against a public servant in the discharge of his functions or as a result of action taken in his official capacity."

If the public servant is a person "vested with public authority," the penalty is enhanced and the perpetrator may be imprisoned for up to one year (Article 196).

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

The Law on State Secrets and Classified Documents prohibits civil servants from making public any classified information under four categories: "ordinary," "restricted," "secret" and "top secret."

A letter from the publisher

JORDANIAN JOURNALISTS have rejected the new press and publication law passed unilaterally by the government earlier this week. The council of the Press Association has submitted its resignation, but later suspended it, in protest and the heads of other professional unions have also threatened to resign en masse by Saturday if the government does not withdraw its controversial law.

Opposition parties have also come out to denounce the amendments introduced by the government to the 1993 law, which until last week, was seen as the most liberal press law in the Arab world and an indication of Jordan's vibrant democratic process introduced in the early 1990s.

Apart from the numerous flaws in the new law, which are seen as a major setback to freedom of expression in Jordan, the manner with which the government has passed the law, without consulting the Press Association or the deputies, reflects a drastic retreat by the government from the democratic process.

Such a process enshrines the basic fundamentals of freedom of expression as a constitutional right for every Jordanian, pluralism and the separation of powers.

Such a change in government mentality is sending the wrong signal to Jordanians and to the world.

The press has come under fire in recent weeks for its treatment of many issues; from national unity to peace with Israel, and from the economic woes of the country to official corruption. In addition to this some newspapers, especially among the Arabic weeklies, have been accused, justly on many occasions, for their irresponsible, sensational and non-credible coverage of public issues. It is no secret that the main casualty of the new law will be the weekly press. Most may have their licences revoked.

While the government may have a case against the way some tabloids have abused their freedom under the 1993 law, the government's choice of remedy is unjustified and will do more harm than good to press freedom and to the image of Jordan as a beacon of democracy in this region.

The new law has condemned all Jordanian journalists—the majority of whom are bound by the ethics and principles of their profession. It has dealt a blow to all members of the profession regardless of their credibility and intentions. It has confiscated their right to report freely and responsibly on government—a most sacred tenet in any thriving and healthy democracy.

This paper is among Jordan's oldest weeklies. Being a weekly newspaper it now finds itself threatened by the new law, which requires us to re-register itself as JD 300,000 establishment. We were never considered, nor do we consider ourselves, as a sensational and irresponsible newspaper that has abused its freedom. And yet the new law has passed a heavy sentence on us.

There is much more at stake here than closing down a few rogue weeklies. Silencing the weeklies, *The Star* included, will not serve democracy, nor will it advance and protect freedom of the press in Jordan.

We have always believed in responsible dialogue and in the sanctity of our constitution and laws. Both are now being undermined by arbitrary legislation and political myopia.

Journalists united

Continued from page 1

Sharif said the general assembly of the JPA will be called for an extraordinary meeting on 6 June to discuss the new law which was passed without prior consultation with its association. He also said the JPA has managed to convince presidents of other professional unions to suspend their decision to resign on Saturday if the government does not withdraw the new law.

JPA has now opted to establish a quiet dialogue with the government rather than resort to extreme measures. It hopes to convince the government to review some of the amended articles which journalists find undemocratic and threatening to press freedom. JPA will also file a legal suit against the new law at the Higher Court of Justice.

JPA's decision to open dialogue came one day after a peaceful sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry ended in violence with riot police using force to disperse some 60 Jordanian journalists. At least four were injured and 10 were arrested. They were later released.

The government announced Tuesday that it had no intention to withdraw the law. Minister of State for Information Affairs Dr Samir Mutawa said only an elected parliament can approve or reject the law. He said no special session of parliament will be called before the November elections.

"There isn't any evidence," said Sheikh Munir Nabulsi, who heads the Ein Yabroud mosque and presided over the funeral. "It is very possible that this man was falsely accused." On the other hand, Nabulsi said, "if he found he really was guilty of selling land, whoever killed him will not be found because he will (turn out to) be from the Authority."

Abu Medin said to "expect the unexpected" because "nobody from this moment will accept any traitor who sells his land to Israelis."

At that day's Friday prayers on Haram Sharif the Palestinian-appointed mufti of Jerusalem, Ekrima Sabri, announced to worshippers that "there is a Jew with a Muslim birth certificate who sells land. He is dead. He must not be prayed for or buried in a Muslim cemetery."

More than a week later, after being rebuffed by every Muslim graveyard they tried, Bashiri's survivors buried him in a secret plot—after staging a false interment in Neve Mousa, between Jerusalem and Jericho, in case anyone was inclined to desecrate his grave.

"No one knows where he is buried," Mohammed Bashiri, the dead man's son, said Monday. "I want my father to rest in peace."

Here in Ein Yabroud, a Jerusalem suburb 12 miles north of Jerusalem, Abu Sarah, the more recent casualty, was buried with Koranic verse in a village graveyard packed with neighbors and friends. That was a strong indication of disbelief in allegations raised in the newspaper al-Ayyam that the dead man had been suspected of "selling lands to Israelis."

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

Turning Aqaba into a free zone could prove an expensive task, experts argue

Continued from page 1

the agreement repayment was delayed to June 2000.

Lately, the United States had disclosed that it plans to offer loans to Jordan worth \$100 million, however no further details were available on the utilization of these loans.

Since the last Amman Economic Summit (MENA), Jordanians have been anticipating concrete steps to carry out some of the big infrastructural projects that were discussed. But until last week none of

the projects was implemented.

The head of the Aqaba municipality, Dr Riyadh Al Hilu described the decision to transform Aqaba into a free zone as positive. However, he added that this puts it in real competition with neighboring countries in the fields of transport, tourism and investments. "We should be strong and qualified enough to face such a competition," he said.

He added that to develop Aqaba along the lines of the free zones of Port Said in

Egypt and Jebel Ali in Dubai requires careful and serious planning, bearing in mind the various economic, geographic and demographic aspects. "This means that a sound infrastructure should be there and investors have to be provided with all facilities and incentives to choose Aqaba as a center for their business and trade," Al Hilu said.

The transformation of Aqaba into a free zone is an ambitious project that will certainly encourage industrial exports, create employment opportunities, reduce pressure on the balance of payment, help transfer advanced technology, and revive the national economy. The project should boost the tourism sector, attract foreign investments and facilitate regional cooperation in various fields of development.

However, financing this huge project remains the problem.

Military prosecutor charges Dakamseh with premeditated murder

Continued from page 1

he allegedly threatened them with his gun and proceeded to shoot at the girls until his gun jammed and his colleagues were able to control him. He was taken to a control tower but while members of the unit were busy evacuating the victims he managed to escape and commandeered a military vehicle and headed for the attack site and tried to run down an Israeli man who was injured in his leg. He was finally restrained.

Now that the indictment sheet has been presented, a trial date will be set, expected to take place as soon as next week. If convicted Dakamseh faces the death penalty. His lawyer Ahmad Najdawi has asked Arab lawyers to join him in the defense of his client. The defense will insist that this was not premeditated

and will try to prove that Dakamseh had not planned the attack but was provoked by his victims and acted at the spur of the moment.

Charges of selling land

Continued from page 1

From the earliest days of Zionism, when Jews and Arabs began their contest for the lands of Palestine, both sides infused private ownership of land with religious resonance and implications of national sovereignty.

Zionist purchases were known as "redeeming the land," and "there was a consensus that land, once bought, should not pass from Jewish to Arab hands," said Anita Shapira, professor of Zionism at Tel Aviv University.

Better organized and financed, ultimately triumphant in founding their state, the Zionists devised formal and informal mechanisms to prevent Arabs from acquiring Jewish land that persist today.

Palestinians, the weaker party, turned to violence. A 1994 study of Palestinian slayings of collaborators with Israel by the human rights group B'tselem found that land dealers were thought to be "the worst type," "heretics and religious rebels."

The return of the issue in Palestinian debate began with the groundbreaking in March for a new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem on land bought years ago from Arabs by Jews. Another factor was a series of covert land deals by extremist Jewish groups, culminating in the expansion this month of the Merkaz Harav yeshiva—a messianic bulwark of the settler

movement whose patron advocates expulsion of Arabs from the West Bank—on East Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

The Palestinian cabinet, meeting May 2, directed "judicial and security circles" to halt such land sales. Three days later, Justice Minister Fathi Abu Medin said the self-rule authority would put "anyone who sells even a centimeter on swift trial and ... seek the death penalty against them."

He spoke approvingly of occasions in the intifada when "people who sold land to Israelis were shot as traitors."

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

After Bashiri's body was found, Abu Medin continued to make what Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, described as "outrageous statements" that appeared to condone "outright murder" of land dealers.

That is approximately what appeared to happen next. Farid Bashiri, 70, an East Jerusalem land dealer widely reputed to be a broker for Jewish land purchases from Arabs, was found bludgeoned to death on May 9 in Palestinian-ruled Ramallah, his hands bound behind him. Israeli police alleged he was lured there by a young woman working for the Palestinian Authority and killed by Palestinian police lawyer Nasser Anani, both of whom are in Israeli custody with their cases under seal, a common Israeli practice.

JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

MS GROUP

The Management and Staff of **MUNIR SUKHTIAN GROUP**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Ammon SHIPPING & TRANSPORT

The Management and Staff of **Ammon**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Jordan Tobacco & Cigaret Co.

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Royal Automobile Club of Jordan

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Jordan Petroleum Refinery

The Management and Staff of **Jordan Petroleum Refinery**

Extend their heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty **King Hussein** on the happy occasion of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO. LTD

INVITATION for Pre-qualification of Vendors for Corporate Planning and Computerization Project Tender No. 23/F97

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. (JPMC) invites local and/or international companies specialized in the computer industry to apply for Pre-qualification to implement the Corporate Planning and Computerization Project at JPMC Head Quarters and all other Sites. Application for Pre-qualification will be considered only for specialized computer companies, which are suitably qualified for this type of work and with high knowledge in Management Information System (M.I.S.).

The Pre-qualification document submitted shall include details of experience and past performances on similar projects, the capability of the vendor and with respect to personnel and financial position. Application for Pre-qualification will be issued against non-refundable payment of JD300 and will be available at JPMC Head Quarters / Supply Department. The closing date for purchasing the Pre-qualification document is 12:00 HRS local time Thursday the 5th of June 1997.

A presentation will be conducted at JPMC Head Quarters in Amman at 10:00 HRS Local Time Monday the 9th of June 1997, to answer all queries regarding the Pre-qualification document.

The closing date for submission of applications is 12:00 HRS Local time Thursday 26th of June 1997.

Samah Madani
Managing Director

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

fizz **spark**

35400 29510

ONE YEAR WARRANTY WHEN BROKEN CONDITIONS

PHASE II

Authorized Distributor in Jordan

Wael Al Tai Al Al karma Center Tel. (962-6) 602924 Fax (962-6) 702447

هكذا من الشرح

